

THE *Country* GUIDE

Incorporating The Nor'West Farmer and Farm and Home

CANADA'S NATIONAL FARM MONTHLY

Editor: LORNE HURD

Associate Editor: RICHARD COBB

Field Editors:

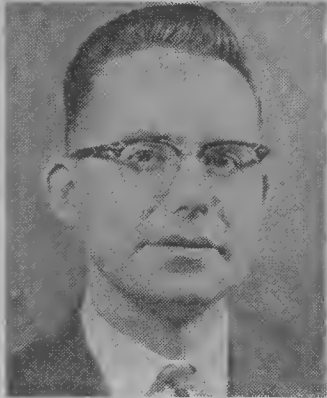
CLIFF FAULKNER, Western Canada
DON BARON, Eastern Canada

Home and Family Section

Associate Editors:

ELVA FLETCHER
GWEN LESLIE

In This Issue



Alex B. Weir

LAW ON THE FARM: Alex Weir, who explained "What you should know about wills" last month, returns with some good advice on the strengths and weaknesses of contracts—see page 17.

THROUGH FIELD AND WOOD reappears this month in a new form with "Hunters of the Night"—a fine example of Clarence Tillenius's skill as artist and writer—page 16.

TURKEY TRIUMPHANT! The Christmas turkey, your gift of good eating, triumphs again in supper dishes and snacks. Look for recipe suggestions on page 34.

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COVER: One of the happy and enduring traditions: Grandpa reads the Christmas story.—Esther Henderson photo.

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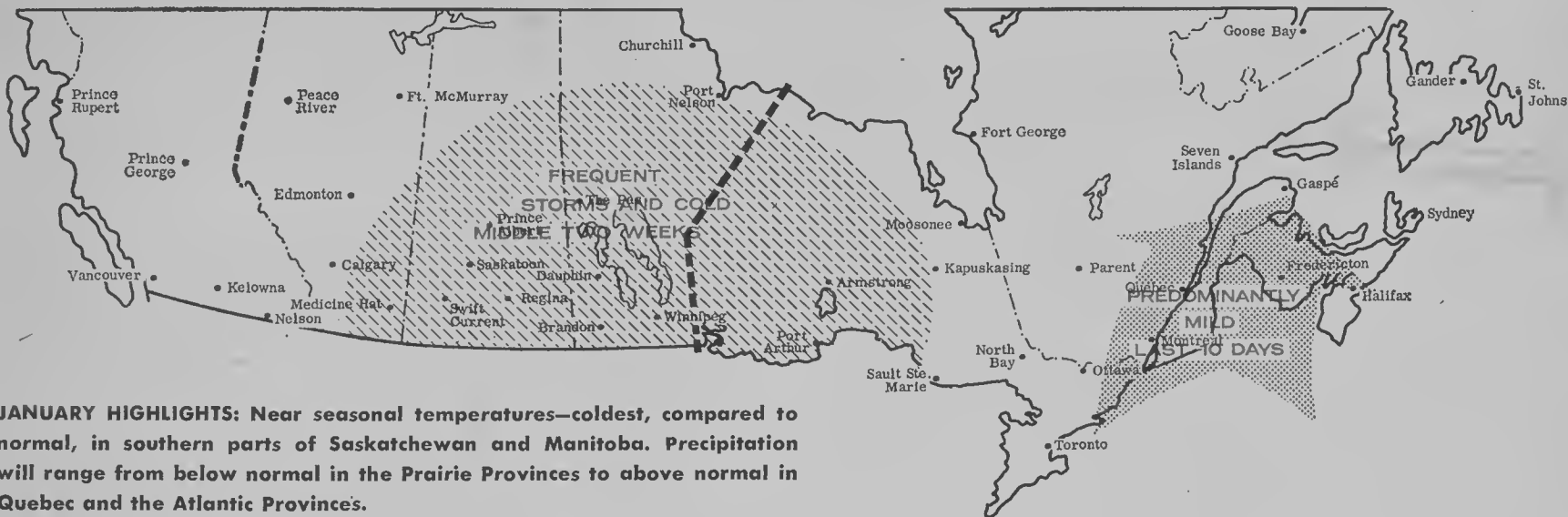
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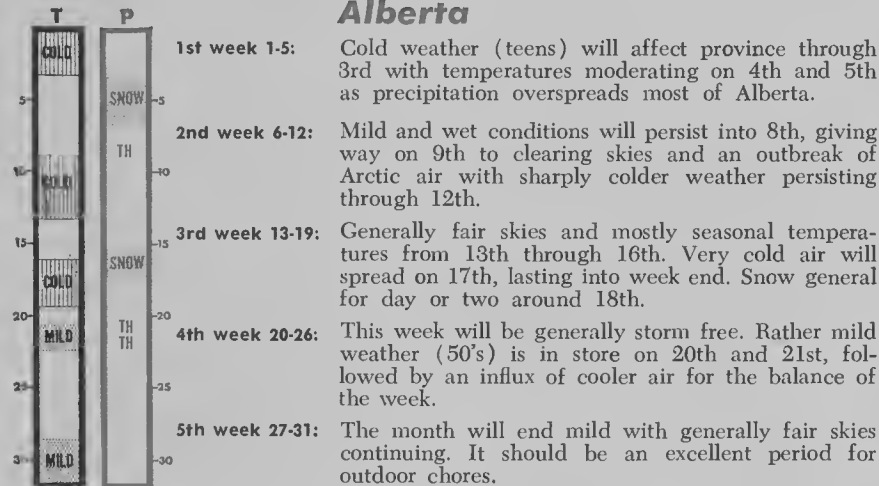
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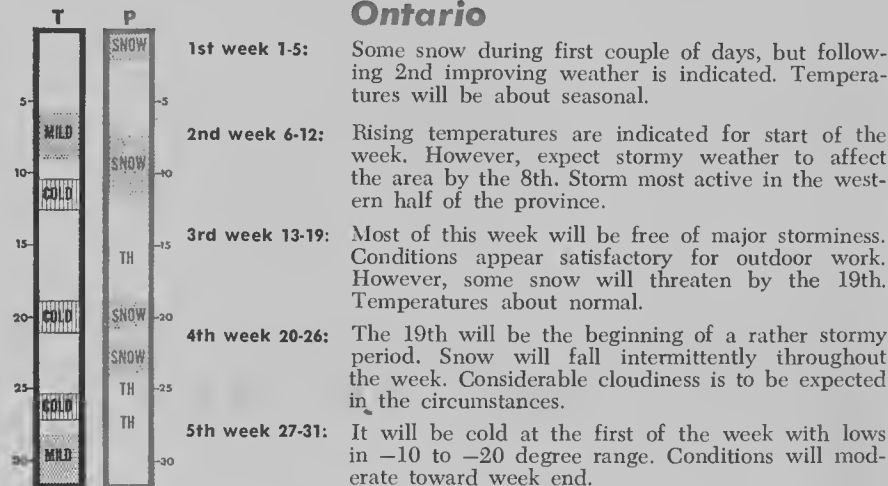
JANUARY 1963

(Allow a day or two either way in using this forecast. It should be 75 per cent right for your area, but not necessarily for your farm.—ed.)

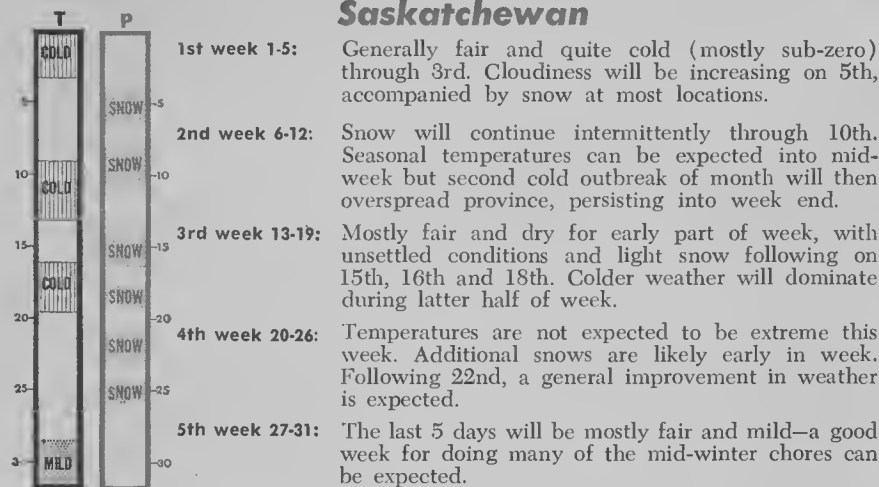
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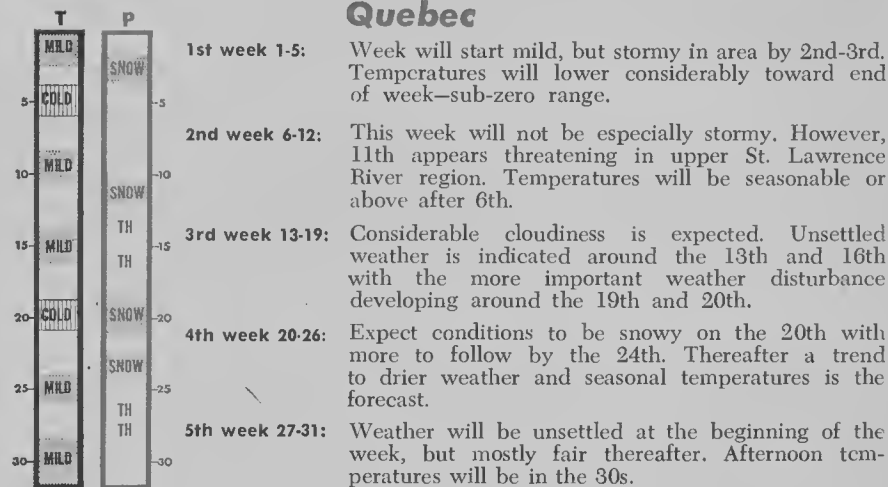
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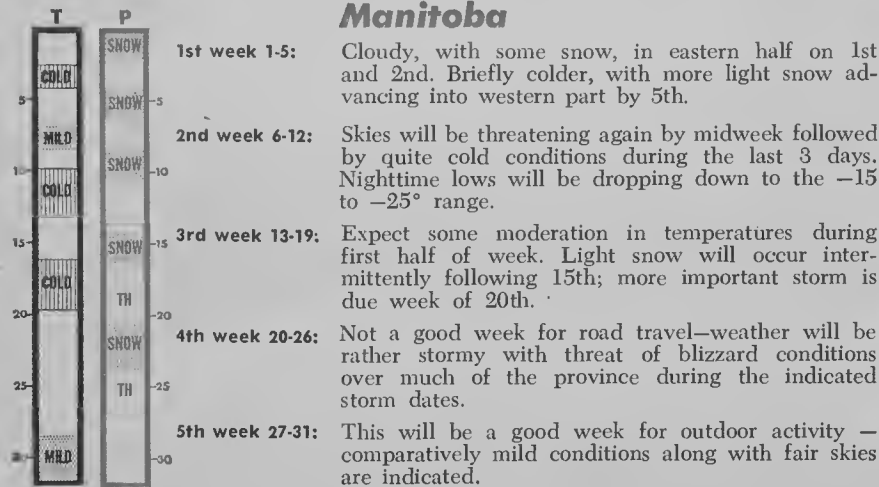
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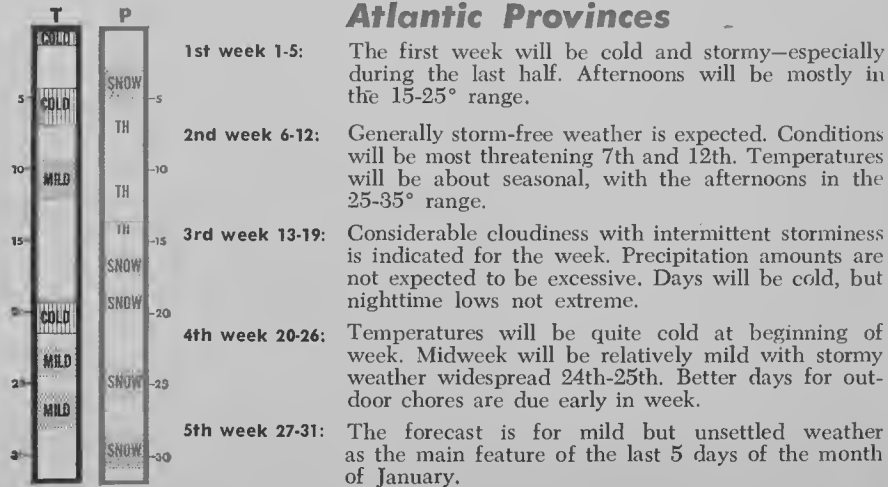
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Editorials

The Christmas That Belongs to You

THE Christmas you experience is the Christmas that belongs to you. At this time of the year we hear the annual protests about the "commercialization of Christmas." We "deplore" some of the exhibitions along main street, and we "regret" the use of Christmas carols to advertise goods and services. The jingle of the Christmas bells is mixed up with the jingle of the cash register. These are the complaints we have heard annually.

Someone has said that "beauty is in the eye of the beholder" and from Shakespeare we have the observation—"there is nothing that is evil, but thinking makes it so." No one except you yourself can commercialize your Christmas. No doubt there are many things done in bad taste at Christmas time, but they bring their own judgment on those responsible. They cannot possibly spoil the real Christmas in any way whatever.

Christmas is a personal responsibility for each of us. Christmas music along main street may speak of dollars and cents to some people. We are sorry for them; but for us this particular music can only speak of Christ, of Bethlehem, and of all the blessed hopes of men. In fact, there may be a certain irony in any deliberate attempt to use Christmas for commercial purposes—Christ has got into the very temples of the money changers. Perhaps they don't realize they are advertising Him!

We hear what we have learned to hear and we see what we have learned to see. Old Scrooge, of Dickens' Christmas Carol, had no use for Christmas. He regarded it as a waste of time and money. He had only a sour look and a contemptuous "Humbug" for those who tried to include him in their happiness. Through a kind of miracle he learned better and, beginning to understand what Christmas really meant, he saw things in a different light. He also heard things in a new way.

After his change of heart . . .

"Scrooge dressed himself all in his best and at last got out into the streets (on Christmas morning). People were by this time pouring forth . . . and walking with his hands behind him, Scrooge regarded everyone with a delighted smile. He looked so irresistibly pleasant . . . that three or four good humored fellows said, 'Good morning, Sir! A Merry Christmas to you!' And Scrooge said often afterwards, that, of all the blithe sounds he had ever heard, those were the blithest in his ears."

No one can spoil Christmas for us. If it is spoiled, we spoil it ourselves. If we think that someone else is spoiling our Christmas it may be because the Christmas that belongs to us

is only selfish and sentimental. Selfishness and sentiment are vulnerable because they depend on outside circumstances. If we are only selfish and sentimental about Christmas then the stage must be set carefully and everything must be "just right" if we are going to have the kind of experience we desire. Thus, our oversensitive reaction to unseemly circumstances may speak of an emptiness within ourselves.

The real Christmas does not depend on outside circumstances. Essentially, it has nothing to do with music, cards, evergreen trees, stockings, fireplaces and roast turkey. It is possible to keep a glorious Christmas without any of these things. Christmas depends, not on them, but on what you have in your heart. You and I keep the real Christmas when we begin to realize and accept for ourselves the fact that God has come into His world to make Himself known. We will keep the real Christmas when we understand that God has come to stay. We are not left comfortless. We are not forsaken. We are not forgotten.

God has come and God is come to stay.

This is the Christmas story and the Christmas song within the hearts of men. This is the imperishable truth at the heart of time and space, deep beneath the outward display of human festivity. This is the Christmas which can belong to you—if you want it, and this is the Christmas that will never be taken away from you, nor ever spoiled.

"Let him who hath eyes to see, see. Let him who hath ears to hear, hear."

May the real Christmas belong to you, forever.—M. L. Goodman. V

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to Our Readers

The Hamilton Proposals

THE two major suggestions put forward by Agriculture Minister Alvin Hamilton at the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool annual meeting on November 9 have caused quite a stir. Aside from the substance of the proposals, a number of other factors contributed to the excitement. To start with, the daily press and radio badly garbled their presentation to the public. Secondly, the Minister's right to make suggestions at the place and in the manner chosen, and his motives for doing so, have been questioned. Furthermore, the second of the two suggestions has been misrepresented and misunderstood, either through lack of knowledge of how Canadian grain is marketed, or for partisan reasons. The end result has been confusion confounded. Before attempting to comment on the suggestions, it seems desirable, therefore, to repeat them precisely in the terms in which they were made.

The first of the two suggestions deals with credit sales of western grain. Mr. Hamilton invited the organization he was addressing "to consider the possibility of 'setting aside' a portion of the final wheat payment with a view to building up a fund which would be used in sharing in any loss which may occur, should there be a non-payment or default from a customer purchasing on a credit basis."

The Minister gave two reasons in his remarks for asking that such assistance be considered. First, he believes everybody involved, including the producer, has to help in selling the Canadian grain crop. Secondly, he stated it would greatly facilitate the task of getting his government colleagues to agree to continue or extend Government credit, if producers were prepared to share in any losses that might be incurred.

Mr. Hamilton's second suggestion was issued in the form of a question: "Will the three

Western Pools, and the United Grain Growers, acting co-operatively, consider forming a grain sales organization to enter, aggressively, first the domestic market, and secondly, at a later stage, the export market, as a real selling agent of the Canadian Wheat Board?"

Based on the Minister's comments, he obviously thinks the formation of a sales organization by the grain co-operatives is needed. After pointing out that selling grain was the original purpose of these organizations, he went on to say this: "I am completely aware of the tremendous competitive and complex nature of the grain business in the world. I am completely aware of the tremendous drive and efficiency of the great national and international grain companies and carriers. I recognize and appreciate their service and helpfulness as agents of the Canadian Wheat Board. But as a Canadian, I put it to you that there is a need for a great Canadian grain co-operative sales organization, particularly when you consider that so much of our domestic market in Eastern Canada is serviced by co-operatives, and particularly when you consider that many of our importing countries are state trading nations."

The first point to be cleared away is that Mr. Hamilton has done nothing wrong in making a couple of suggestions for consideration. To read some of the comments, you'd think he had committed a gross breach of ethics. It should be recognized that the Minister of Agriculture has a responsibility to attempt to provide leadership. Making suggestions is one of the ways open to him. Surely, he doesn't have to obtain the permission of farm leaders or the Advisory Committee to the Canadian Wheat Board first. To the credit of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool and certain other organizations, they neither maligned the Minister for his action, nor rejected his proposals out of hand.

They intend to give them careful consideration, as they were asked to do.

Let us now examine each of the two suggestions and some of the issues involved.

The Credit Proposal

The self-help principle of the credit-risk-sharing proposal has its appeal. Few producers wish to depend on the Government any more than they can help. It may be especially necessary to accept the principle if it is the only way to assure the continuation of a satisfactory level of grain exports. Certainly credit sales have made the difference in recent years, and are expected to play an even more significant role in future.

Some spokesmen have pointed out, and with justification, that the level of our grain exports is beneficial to the whole Canadian economy, and not just to grain producers. Because of this, they think it is a state responsibility to carry the risk of credit transactions. We doubt if this argument by itself is a valid reason for turning down the Minister's proposal. Surely producers of any product must assume some of the responsibility for the marketing of that product. In most industries, they are completely responsible for the marketing function.

The Government's current liability under the credit arrangements on grain sales is approximately \$190 million. Even if the grain producers put aside a cent or two out of the final wheat payment for the next several years, as the Minister suggested they might, the resulting fund would still not begin to cover the potential liabilities. Obviously, the Government would of necessity remain in the field of guaranteeing credit, and continue to assume the lion's share of the risk.

The method suggested of establishing the producer fund has one glaring weakness. It fails to recognize the probability of a substantial turnover of grain producers from year to year. Why should farmers who sell wheat in

(Please turn to page 10)

GUIDE POSTS

UP-TO-DATE
FARM MARKET
FORECASTS

WHEAT EXPORTS this season to date are some 20 per cent behind last year's. Present signs indicate total exports for the year will be around 300 million bu. as against 358 million last crop year.

OAT SUPPLIES will be quite adequate this season. Available supplies, including carryover stocks of 79 million bu. and production of 494 million, total 573 million bushels. Around 400 million will probably be used in Canada, and 10 to 15 million exported, leaving a comfortable carryover of some 160 million bushels.

HOG PRICES will average lower next year than in 1962. The national average for the year for Grade A's may be in the \$26 to \$27 range, some \$2 lower than this year. Feed costs will also be lower.

BARLEY SUPPLIES of 224 million bushels are small in comparison with recent years. However, export markets, which used to take about 75 million bu., have largely disappeared, and we need only about 160 million for use in Canada.

WHEAT SITUATION ARITHMETIC for 1962-63 goes as follows: carryover stocks of 396 million bu. plus production of 557 million for a total of 953 million; home needs of around 150 million bushels plus exports of 300 million for total use of 450 million; carryover at end of year will be around 500 million, or about 100 million more than last year.

CHOICE FED STEERS at Calgary will likely be selling in the \$23 to \$25 per cwt. range by spring. Prairie marketings of fed cattle will be increasing at that time and U.S. prices will also be lower.

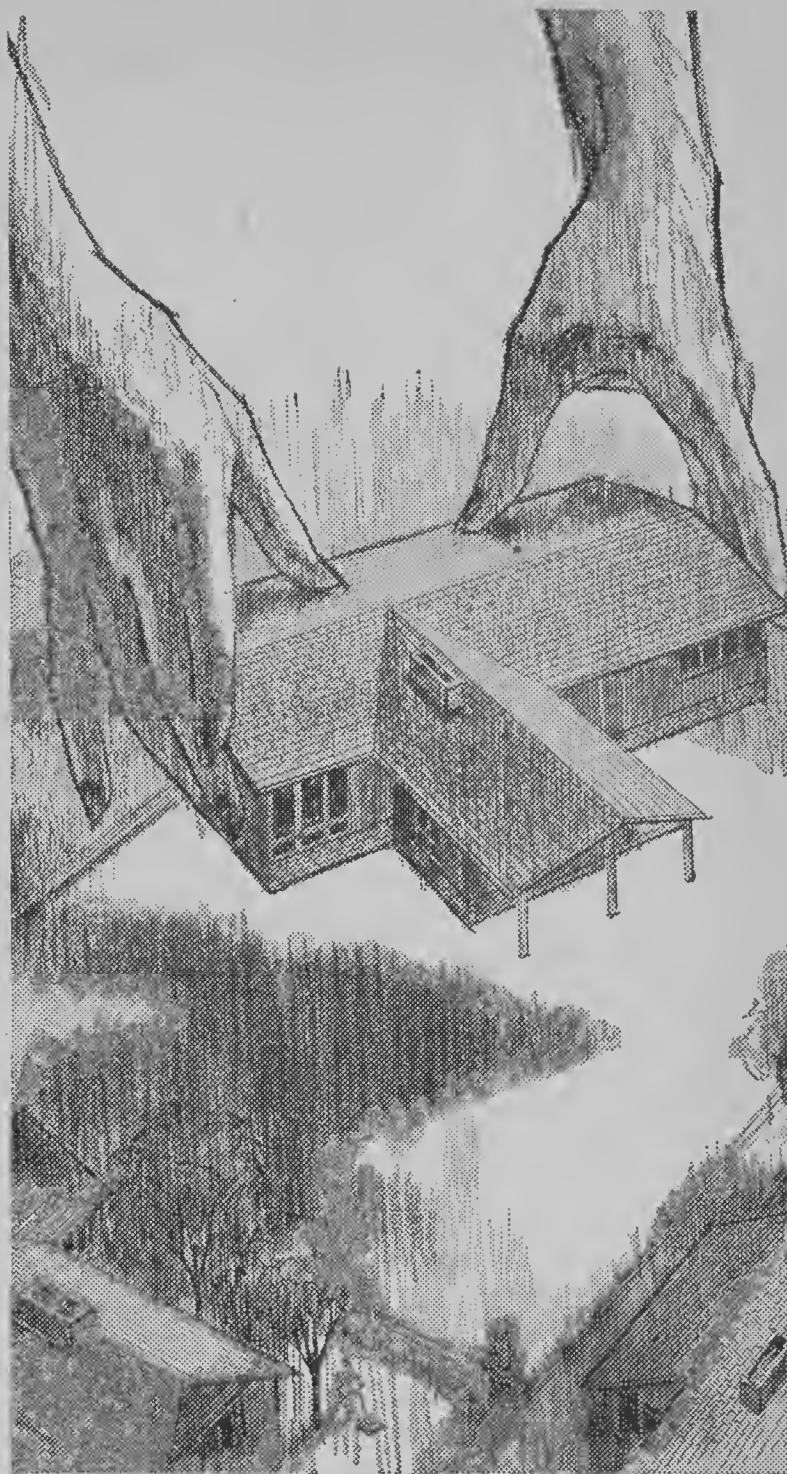
POTATO PRICES will likely be relatively low for the second year in a row. Production in Canada was up due to increased yields per acre which more than offset the smaller planted acreage.

LAMB PROSPECTS for 1963 appear better than in recent years. Sheep numbers are still declining and thus the 1963 output of both lambs and wool will be down.

WHEAT STOCKS PILE-UP could make trouble in the next few years. In 1962 just under 27 million acres were planted, and yields in recent years, despite drought, have averaged around 20 bushels, so there is no difficulty producing crops of 550 million bu., but disposing of over 450 million will be a challenge.

POULTRY MEAT PRICES in 1963 will average lower than this year largely because of more competition from lower priced pork and beef. Highest broiler prices appear likely during the winter.

UNITED STATES CORN EXPORTS, reflecting the fact that world markets for reasonably priced feed grains are growing, hit a new record of 414 million bushels last season, compared with 276 million the previous year.



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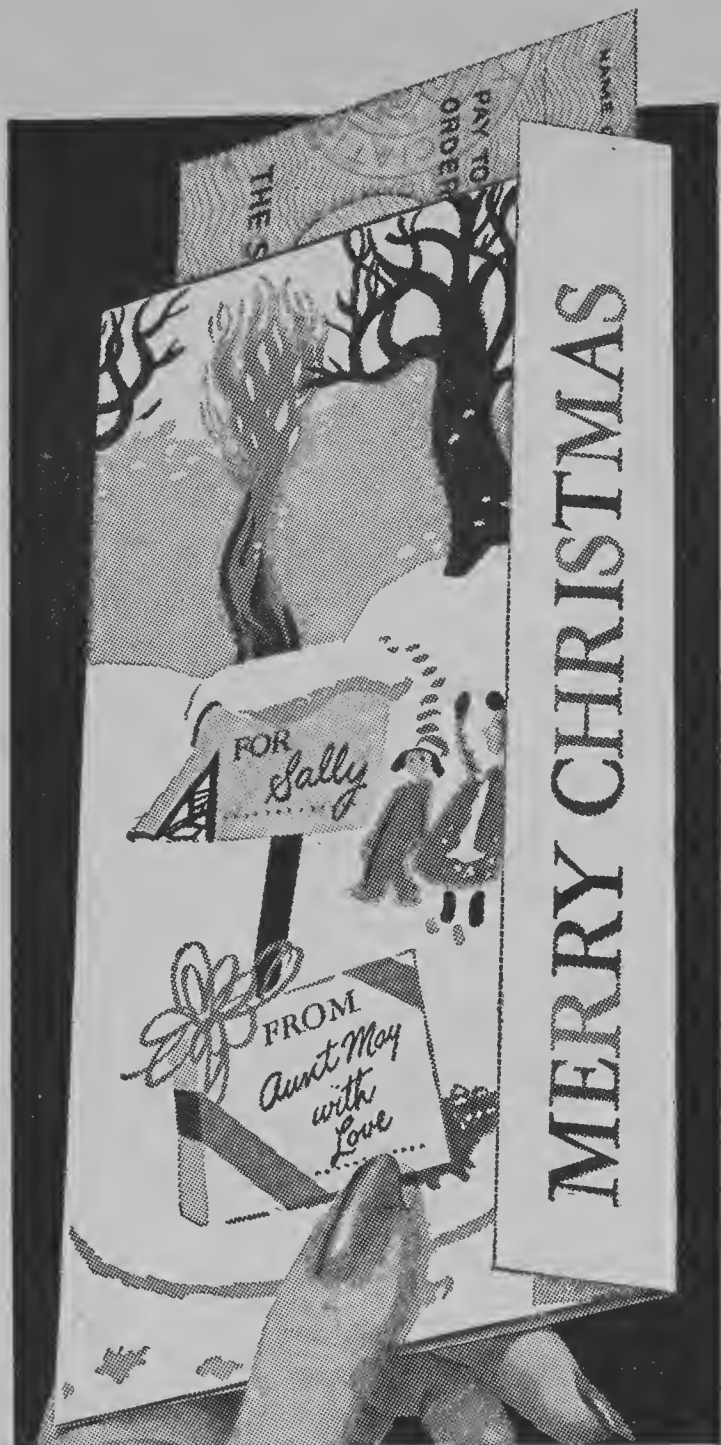
Actually, your life insurance dollars are more than an investment in your personal security and your family's. These dollars are also an investment in Canada. They stimulate growth and progress and help make this country a better place in which to live and work.

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What's Happening

RUNCIMAN WANTS IMMEDIATE ECM-CANADA NEGOTIATIONS

President A. M. Runciman of United Grain Growers Limited told the organization's 56th annual meeting that "the interests of prairie wheat producers are threatened" unless the Government of Canada can negotiate satisfactory arrangements for access of Canadian wheat to European Common Market countries. He stated Canada should seek immediate negotiations and offer special inducements to ECM countries.

Mr. Runciman pointed out that levies on wheat imports into these countries will increase as world prices fall and decrease as they rise, the intention being to keep consumer prices of all wheat at a high level. Current levies increase the cost of Canadian No. 2 Northern to something over \$3 per bushel in the Netherlands and over \$4 a bushel in West Germany. It is the intention of the Common Market countries to encourage domestic production and to restrict imports. It is also their hope to absorb great and growing surpluses of French wheat.

The UGC president said that once lost, present European outlets for Canadian wheat will be difficult to recover. "Steps to retain them are more than urgent: they are absolutely necessary. They must be decided on at once and promptly undertaken," Mr. Runciman said. "The ECM agreed this spring to negotiate with the U.S.A. and Canada about quality wheats. The Government of Canada should promptly seize this opportunity for direct negotiations."

Resolutions passed by more than 300 delegates at UGC annual meeting held in Winnipeg in November called for:

- The Canadian Wheat Board to set initial payments on wheat, oats and barley as high as is consistent with maintaining a reasonable margin of security for the Canadian Government.
- An immediate substantial increase in the initial payments for the current crop year on wheat, oats and barley, and that there be corresponding interim payments on such grains already delivered since the beginning of the crop year.
- The continuation of the grain quota delivery system.
- The Federal Government to amend the Income Tax Act to allow double the present depreciation rate on farm granaries.
- The Federal Government to ensure that authorization by the Board of Transport Commissioners to abandon any branch line will not be granted without adequate opportunity for persons interested to make representations to the Board, and that service be continued for a reasonable period after abandonment has been authorized to enable those affected to make the necessary ad-

justments with as little hardship as possible.

A further resolution strongly opposed a rumored move of the Government to lower storage charges paid on wheat, starting at 278 million bushels instead of 178 million as at present.

The annual report, presented by the directors, showed total earnings for the year ended July 31, 1962, to be \$2,181,348 compared with \$2,771,814 the previous year. The decrease was due almost entirely to lower grain handlings, although UGC handlings during the 1961-62 crop year were a higher percentage of the total in Western Canada than ever before. Appropriation for patronage dividends amounted to \$650,000 for last year.

FITZGERALD TO HEAD UP PFRA



M. J. Fitzgerald, a native of Rose-town, Saskatchewan, has been appointed director of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration. He joined PFRA in August, 1961, as chief of administration and served as acting director upon the retirement of G. L. MacKenzie from the director's post last spring.

Mr. Fitzgerald, who is 43, graduated in agricultural economics from the University of Saskatchewan in 1950 after serving overseas in World War II in the Royal Canadian Artillery with the rank of Captain. Since graduation he has worked in Canada as a credit supervisor for the Farm Improvement Loans Administration of the Department of Finance, and as supervisor in the Civil Service Commission where he was concerned with recruitment of professional staff for the Canada Department of Agriculture.

From 1956 to 1959, Mr. Fitzgerald served as executive chief of the Land and Water Use Branch of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome. His work with FAO required him to travel extensively in Europe and the Middle and Far East. Hence, he has been closely associated with agriculture at both the national and international levels during his career as a civil servant.

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
WANTS COMMISSION ON TRADE**

In its annual policy presentation to the Federal Government at the end of November, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce said Canada should adopt trade policies which will best serve this country's interests in the face of new trading patterns and relationships. With this in mind, the submission recommended that the Government immediately appoint a Commission of Inquiry on trade problems and trade agreements, with instructions to make recommendations within one year.

As a companion step, the Chamber also called on the Government to re-examine all trade legislation with a view to making changes which will step up international trade. V

**FARMERS TO BENEFIT
IN AUTO INSURANCE CHANGE**

The All Canada Insurance Federation has announced that Canadian farmers will benefit from a new method of classification which is to be introduced by many automobile insurance companies in 1963. Farmers have traditionally paid less for their insurance, since most of them use their cars sparingly and on light-traffic roads. However, this year for the first time, separate listings have been compiled for farmers, and as a result, most farmers will benefit from this change. Unfortunately, Ontario farmers are an exception. Accident statistics indicate that farmers in that province will probably face a rate increase similar to the average for all drivers in the country—about 10 per cent. V

**UNITED STATES TO
STEP UP BARTER DEALS**

The United States has taken new action to increase its barter sales of surplus farm products, according to a report in the IFAP News.

Since the barter program began in 1954, the U.S.A. has disposed of \$1.4 billion worth of farm surpluses for strategic and other materials. In recent years, however, such barter transactions have been sharply reduced. Other trading nations complained that they were interfering with normal commercial trade in farm products.

The IFAP report states that the new action is designed to increase the present rate of barter deals and to shift emphasis from acquiring strategic materials. In future, the program is to aid off-shore procurement and to help some of the lesser developed nations. V

NEWS BRIEFS

• The ARDA Administration held a meeting in Ottawa in November to discuss with representatives of federal and provincial governments, universities and consulting firms the feasibility and possible methods of carrying out a national inventory of Canada's land resources.

• Net Farm Income in Saskatchewan has been estimated at \$500 million for 1962, or \$5,375 per farm, which is four times the size of the disappointing net farm income for 1961. If the 1962 estimate is reached, it will only have been exceeded by farm net incomes in 1951 and

1952 when record grain crops were produced.

• E. A. Boden, grain grower and livestock producer at Cutknife, Sask., has been appointed to Advisory Committee of the Agricultural Stabilization Board, it has been announced by Agriculture Minister Alvin Hamilton.

• The Canadian Wheat Board has announced that it will open an office in Brussels, Belgium, in order to keep in touch with Common Market developments affecting wheat sales.

• George Urwin of Saskatoon, president of Interprovincial Co-

operatives Limited, was awarded an honorary degree of doctor of laws (LL.D.) at the fall convocation of the University of Saskatchewan. V

**WARNING!
CARBON MONOXIDE**

Careless winter motorists can become the victims of carbon monoxide poisoning, which in severe form causes death in as little as five minutes. This gas, which is odorless and tasteless, is produced by the incomplete burning of fuel and is present in the exhaust fumes from motor vehicles.

Here are the safety rules to guard

against serious illness or death from the gas:

- Never allow your vehicle's exhaust system to become faulty.
- Never start your vehicle's engine in a closed garage.
- Never stay in a closed, parked car with the motor running.
- Always keep a window open when the engine is running, and in slow-moving, closely-spaced traffic, keep air intakes closed to guard against CO from the exhaust fumes of other vehicles.
- If you or any of your passengers feel drowsy, stop, get out and breathe some fresh air. V

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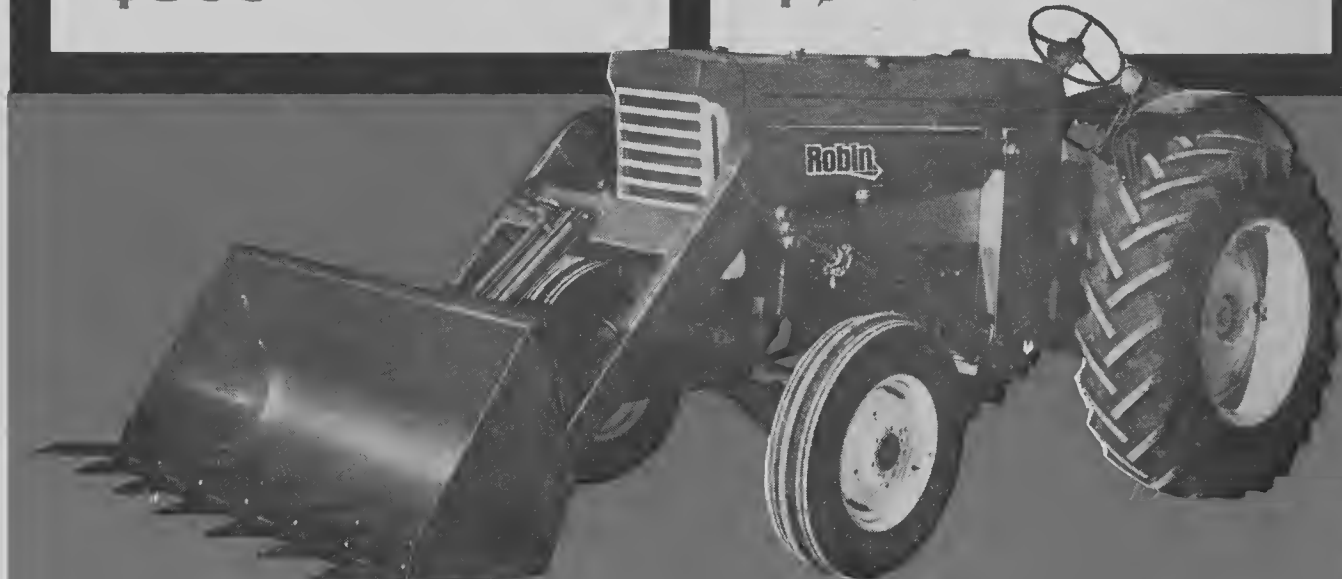
\$365 incl. side-mount bracket assembly and attaching kit.

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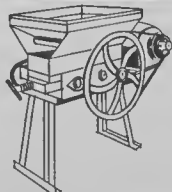
- 60" bucket
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- 3000 lb. rated capacity
- 10'4" lift clear under bucket
- Digs approximately 7" below grade
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\$570 incl. universal side-mount bracket assembly. Mounting kit extra.



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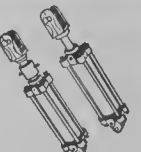


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(Continued from page 6)

1962 contribute to a fund that might not be used until 1965 or even 1970, possibly long after they have retired? If farmers are to share the risks of credit sales, we suggest that it would be more logical and less troublesome if the producer reserve for bad debts was placed on a revolving fund basis, or on an annual basis.

Finally, it should be pointed out that if producers are going to accept the risk-sharing principle, they will insist on having a direct say in negotiating credit sales contracts. This,

it would seem, could present certain difficulties. Credit negotiations are now carried on by the Canadian Wheat Board, with the Government retaining the final decision as to the terms. Can producers, in fact, participate directly in state trading, or government to government sales?

The Selling Agency Proposal

Turning to the suggestion for the formation of a co-operative grain sales organization, there is a need to clarify a number of facts, since even some farm leaders do not seem to know how export grain sales are actually made. These leaders view

the development of such an organization as a threat to the Canadian Wheat Board system of marketing. They have repeatedly recorded their opinion that the sale of western grains should be handled exclusively by the Board.

What are the facts of the matter? The Minister made it quite clear from the outset that he intended such an organization, if it were formed, to be another selling agent of the Board in both the domestic and export markets. It would be expected to operate under an annual agreement with the Board in the same way as all other established

shippers and exporters do now.

Under the present system these agents of the Board make direct sales abroad, and are responsible for forwarding grains to receiving points, the invoicing and booking of vessels, and the chartering of ocean freight when required to do so by the buyer. They offer wheat in all overseas markets, and can complete sales contracts subject only to Board prices, and confirmation with respect to supplies of grain and shipping positions.

The Canadian export trade does not receive a commission from the Board for these services. Earnings on export transactions are by arrangement with the ultimate buyer. While the Board does negotiate direct sales itself, the bulk of Canada's grain export business has been carried out for many years by means of direct sales contracts between exporters with offices in Canada and buyers overseas.

It is quite apparent that no change in the Wheat Board system of marketing was contemplated in the Hamilton suggestion. He would like to see the four co-operatives form a single selling agency which would become one of the competitors in the grain export business.

It may come as a surprise to some that the grain co-operatives have held a watching brief on this approach for many years. The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool and the United Grain Growers both have export sales divisions presently acting as agents of the Board. While they have done only a very small portion of the export business, it is for very good reasons. It is not a field that is easy to become established in. The more important exporters of Canadian grain are large international trading companies with sales offices and contacts around the world. They handle numerous commodities and some are engaged in international finance and shipping.

We believe that Mr. Hamilton, in making the selling agency suggestion, has put the cart before the horse. Any move by the co-operative grain organizations to create a central selling agency should be preceded by the establishment of an on-the-spot market information service reporting directly to them. This would be a more feasible and economical way to approach the problem, and would provide valuable information on whether another selling agency is needed. Moreover, such market representation could provide the co-operatives in the meantime with first hand information on market opportunities and conditions, which would permit them to speak with more authority at home about grain problems.

In conclusion, we would remind our readers that great changes are taking place in world trade. Undoubtedly, these changes will affect Canadian grain exports. Adjustments of grain exports policies will be needed, but they must be based upon authoritative information. While Mr. Hamilton's suggestions do not in themselves appear to provide the complete answer, they have stimulated a much needed reappraisal of grain marketing problems and policies. To this extent, at least, they will serve a useful purpose. V

Ron Robinson Answers Young Farmers' Question

FIR PLYWOOD WILL DO MORE THINGS, INDOORS & OUTDOORS, THAN ANY OTHER MATERIAL



R. L. Robinson, B.E.
(Agricultural Engineer)

No contractor would use three different building materials if one would do. Neither would the farmer for his farm buildings. He wants a single material that's readily available, that does a lot of building jobs and is easily worked.

1. I want a material I can use for all farm buildings and odd jobs. Is Fir Plywood the answer? There's no material for building everything on the farm, but Fir Plywood certainly comes closer to it than anything else. Do you know any other material you can use to build everything from a big machinery storage shed to a small hoghouse? Concrete is too heavy for portable structures, and metal can't be worked by ordinary farm labour. Fir Plywood is a 'sandwich' of several wooden sheets bonded together for high strength and resilience. You can make dozens of things for the farm with Fir Plywood — pens, doors, gussets, chutes, crates, pallet bins — the list is always growing. You can build carts, bins and self-feeders of any size. And don't forget your home. Fir Plywood kitchen cabinets and living-room furniture are easily made.

2. How does Fir Plywood work with various insulating materials? Will it line a metal building? Fir Plywood will sheath and line any kind of building. The panels are big and squared. That means building is quick, and the panels fit snugly together. There will be little air infiltration because there are few joints, so your insulation will be more efficient.

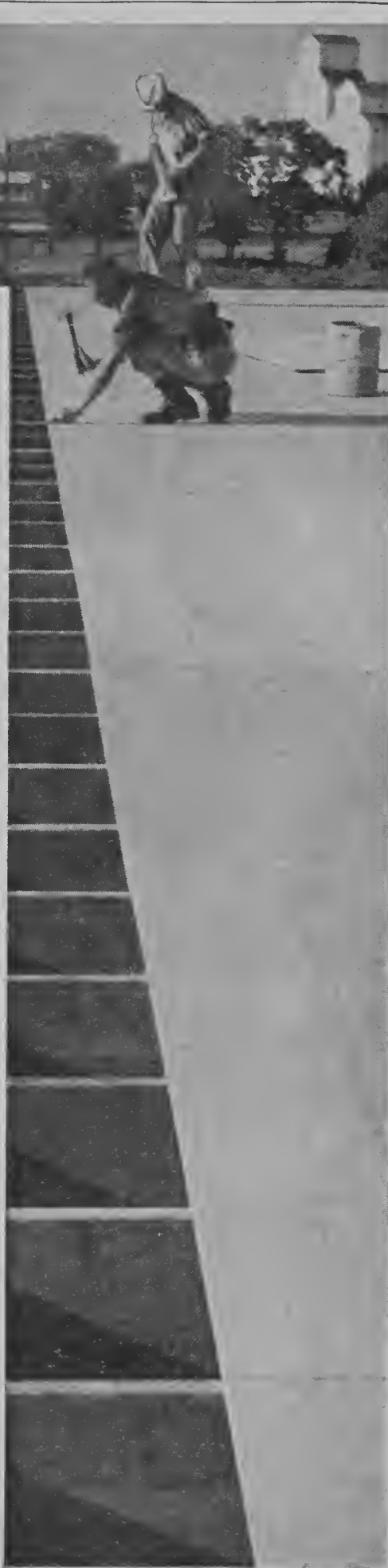
3. Where can I get plans of all these Fir Plywood structures? And what about construction costs? Lumber dealers stock plans produced by the Plywood Manufacturers Association. You can also get plans from the Canadian Farm Building Plan Service through your provincial Department of Agriculture or the Plywood Manufacturers Association. Costs are kept down because you don't need any special tools or trained carpenters. And the building goes up quickly because Fir Plywood panels cover 32 square feet at a time. By the way, remember that you can prefabricate indoors during the off-season and put the building up later.

4. My limited capital has to go a long way and I want a reliable investment. Does Fir Plywood have long-term economy? The economy of a building material is a many-sided question, so let me deal with each aspect in turn. The initial cost of a Fir Plywood structure is low because construction is quick and easy, and you don't need special equipment or skills. Physical depreciation is very small because Fir Plywood has the strength and resilience to resist all kinds of abuse from livestock and the weight of bulk storage year after year. Fir Plywood doesn't crack or crumble like concrete. It won't corrode like metal. Fir Plywood is bonded with waterproof glue and stands up to everything the weatherman can think of. *Fir Plywood's wide usefulness and its valuable economies over a long period make it the most practical building material of all. Every farmer should discuss it with his lumber dealer because the more Fir Plywood is used on the farm, the better a farmer can compete under modern conditions.*

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F-62-3



YOUR Stake in Farm Policy

by **LORNE HURD**
Editor

Canada's agricultural leaders met in Ottawa for their annual conclave November 19-21. Federal and provincial ministers of agriculture, their deputy ministers and other senior officials held a series of meetings with each other and with representatives of the two national farm organizations — the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the National Farmers Union. Together they reviewed the agricultural situation and outlook, and explored the policy needs of the farming industry for the future.

CONFERENCE participants found the agricultural outlook to be generally favorable. They were told that the higher demand levels of 1962 are expected to be sustained in 1963. Personal income, which moved strongly upward in 1962, should be maintained in the new year, thus providing a strong base for expenditures on farm products and other consumer goods. Economists also anticipate that export sales of Canadian products will be maintained or increased in the year ahead.

The outlook report delivered to the Conference indicated that the physical output of Canadian agriculture in 1962 increased by about one-third over that of 1961. For the first time, the report said, farmers' estimated cash returns from farming operations will exceed the \$3 billion level. Total estimated net income increased sharply in 1962 to \$1.6 billion—56 per cent higher than the comparable figure for 1961, and 27 per cent above the 1955-59 average.

Farm income in 1963 will depend to a large extent, of course, on growing and harvesting conditions, the report said. However, it forecast that larger marketings of cattle, hogs and feed grains will offset possible price declines for these commodities. Egg prices are expected to average higher. If production of dairy and other products is maintained, then it is thought that total net income in 1963 should come close to the estimated 1962 level.

COMMODITY OUTLOOK

The Federal-Provincial forecast for the various commodities is very much in line with that given in *The Country Guide* "Fall Market Outlook" article which appeared in our October issue. Here are the highlights.

Prices paid to livestock producers in 1962 were higher than in 1961 and are expected to continue at similar levels into early 1963. With increasing hog supplies, prices will decline in April and May of 1963 and summer prices may be below those of 1962. A downward adjustment in feeder cattle and fed cattle prices is expected in 1963, but the overall cattle price outlook in both Canada and the United States is good.

Egg production during the first half of 1963 is expected to fall below that of 1962, which should result in generally higher prices compared with a year earlier.

The market for broiler chickens and turkeys will be about the same in 1963 as in the previous

year. Any larger production may result in lower prices.

With better grain crops throughout Europe, it is not likely that exports of wheat and flour will match the high level of 358 million bushels achieved in 1961-62. However, a total export and domestic disappearance of about 470 million bushels appears probable. In view of the large supplies and the limited market, durum wheat prices during 1962-63 will average well below those of 1961-62.

Overall feed grain supplies are considerably larger this year than last. Oat supplies in particular will be much more plentiful, and prices lower. However, barley stocks by the end of the 1962-63 crop year are expected to be low, and an expansion of barley acreage in 1963 appears desirable.

Ample forage supplies are available in all provinces with the exception of certain localities in the Maritime Provinces.

The prospect is for generous supplies of oilseed crops with lower producer prices expected for flax, rapeseed and mustard seed.

By far the bleakest spot in the otherwise favorable outlook was in dairying. The seriousness of the dairy problem is reflected, the report stated, in the continuing build-up of supplies, largely in the form of butter. In 1962, while Canada witnessed an increased domestic disappearance of all milk products, notably butter, stocks of the latter continued to rise, though at a slower rate than in 1961. Stocks of butter on hand at the beginning of 1963 are expected to be about 237 million pounds, or 40 million pounds higher than a year earlier.

Milk production in 1963 will likely be about the same as in 1962. There is no expectation of any significant increase in export demand for dairy products. Domestically, some increase in sales may result from population growth. However, it is unlikely, the forecasters think, that such increases will be sufficient to prevent a further build-up of stocks, largely in the form of butter. The overall position of dairying will depend on the weather and government pricing policies and programs, the report concluded.

DAIRY POLICY

With this outlook before the Conference, it was not surprising that dairy problems should be given precedence over all others.

In addressing himself to the subject, the Fed-

Conference Highlights

• Agricultural outlook for 1963, with the exception of dairying, is favorable.

• Next year is a time of decision for the dairy industry. It may start off with a major conference where an attempt would be made to reach agreement on the steps to be taken in dairy policy for both the short and the longer run.

• Farm organizations gave unqualified support to the Government's policy of making grain sales on credit terms to Mainland China and other countries.

• Action to improve the feed freight assistance program and the handling of western feed grains in Eastern Canada is promised in the near future.

• A strong case was made to have the Federal Government provide reinsurance to the provinces under the Crop Insurance Program.

eral Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Alvin Hamilton, said we in Canada must accept the fact that growing efficiency in dairying is likely to continue to create supplies in excess of current market requirements. This means that surplus problems in the dairy industry will get steadily worse, unless something is done to bring supply and demand into better balance. He said governments are grappling with the problem candidly, and he hoped producers would do likewise.

Mr. Hamilton stated that through ARDA and changes in the Farm Credit Act good opportunities will exist for farmers to shift from dairy to beef enterprises in Eastern Canada. In addition, the establishment of the World Food Program and the prospect of developing international commodity agreements should both aid in relieving the pressure of over-supplies in dairying in the longer run. But he suggested that Canada cannot wait for these longer run policies to bring about the kind of adjustments that are needed. "The next year or so," the Minister said, "is a time of decision in the dairy industry. We must do something of an immediate nature."

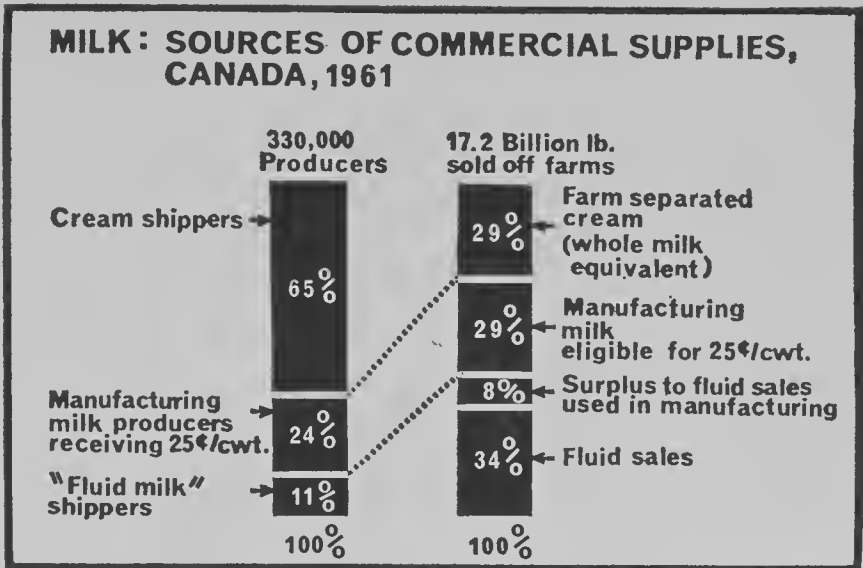
As if anticipating what the Minister would say, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture met the challenge head-on in its Conference presentation.

"The present problem of the dairy industry has been summed up [by Mr. Hamilton a few weeks earlier] as a choice between agreement to limit production through marketing quotas on the one hand, and reduced price supports on the other hand," the CFA said. "We do not agree with
(Please turn to next page)

this description of the problem if it is meant to apply in the immediate short run. But there may well be a long-run choice necessary between these two alternatives. We do not, however, feel that apologies are necessary for asking substantial government expenditures of funds in support of the dairy industry. Nor do we feel that failure to quickly achieve a national orderly marketing plan can be an adequate reason for trying to quickly solve the surplus problem through reducing returns to producers . . . This would be a solution for no one but the agricultural stabilization administration.

"In short, we agree a start must be made toward managed supply of milk, but do not accept the view that we are in an extreme crisis of support policy that must be corrected overnight," the CFA stated.

"The Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the Dairy Farmers of Canada believe that in meeting the present problems of the dairy industry some national plan and authority must be established. They believe that progress can best be achieved by looking at the problem nationally, and agreeing on broad principles and program. Starting from this," the statement continued, "the co-ordi-



nated development of provincial policy should follow more easily . . ."

The two organizations therefore proposed that a major conference be held in February to discuss the problems of the dairy industry, and to attempt to arrive at some measure of agreement on the next steps to be taken.

"From such a Conference would emerge, we would hope, some satisfactory basis for Federal dairy policy

for the coming dairy year, plus the beginnings of a longer-term basic approach to a national dairy policy," the CFA statement concluded.

While no announcement was made that such a Conference would be called, Conference participants expressed opinions privately that one would be held.

CREDIT SALES DEFENDED

It is not news to anyone in Canada that the grain sales on credit terms to Mainland China have been openly attacked in various quarters. The Minister of Agriculture took this occasion to defend the Government's policy in this regard. He pointed to these facts:

- High grain sales abroad provide an uplift to prices of other farm products, by easing the pressure to increase livestock production in the grain growing areas of the West. Hence, the high level of sales have been an advantage to farmers in all parts of Canada.

- The use of credit techniques to move grain is well established amongst Canada's competitors in world trade.

- Australia, France, West Germany and the Argentine, in addition to Canada, have all sold sizeable quantities of wheat to Mainland China. Even the President of the United States has offered to give wheat to that country if it would ask for it.

- Trade figures with Mainland China show that the United Kingdom, West Germany and even India have made sizeable exports to Mainland China in recent years.

- Trade between East and West Germany across the Iron Curtain amounts to about \$250 million each way per annum.

Mr. Hamilton made it clear that in view of these facts, Canada intended to press forward with grain sales to Mainland China, and expressed the hope that such sales could be maintained.

Spokesmen for the farm organizations left no doubt in any one's mind that they stood squarely with the Government on this policy.

The National Farmers Union brief said: "We recommend the expansion of credit sales to countries which are not able to pay cash on the barrel-

head . . . The matter of agricultural exports is of vital importance to the country as a whole, and not only to farmers."

The CFA put its position in these words: "A great need at the moment is to consolidate and expand the gains that have been made in recent times in the marketing of western grain—and particularly in the export of western wheat. The success which has been achieved in expanding sales of grain to countries outside our traditional markets, notably to China and Poland, is one of the more hopeful developments in the agricultural picture.

"These gains would not have been possible without policies for the extension of reasonable credit to enable purchasing countries to anticipate and plan for meeting their financial commitments, and the Federation strongly supports the principle of advancing credit for the sale of our grain . . ."

FEED GRAIN LEGISLATION

A third major topic at this year's Conference was the development of a policy on the storage and supply of western feed grains in Eastern Canada.

The need for such policy appears to be widely accepted. The Federation of Agriculture described it in these terms: "The essence of the problem is that conditions arise where consumers of western feed grains in Eastern Canada pay more for their feed grains than it would be expected they should in relation to the basic supply and price position in Western Canada. In particular, it is too often the case that an inadequate supply of feed moves into eastern positions prior to the close of navigation, and Eastern Canadian prices go up to some degree, taking advantage of the increased cost of hauling all-rail from the Lakehead.

"The question here," the CFA stated, "is not one of basic price levels for grain. The problem is one of avoiding premiums over the basic price level—premiums which the eastern farmer pays and the western farmer doesn't get."

The Federal Minister of Agriculture said that his department officials have been studying the problem for a year, along with the farm organizations, in an effort to come up with a satisfactory plan. In his judgment such a plan must include these principles:

- Equalized prices at central shipping points in the East have to be achieved.

- There has to be a fair place for the eastern producer of feed grains in the scheme.

- There has to be a guaranteed supply of feed grain at stable prices.

Mr. Hamilton seemed determined that the situation which has prevailed should not be allowed to drift any longer. Legislation was forecast in the Speech from the Throne and a plan to improve the position of the eastern livestock producer seems imminent.

Turning to the question of feed freight assistance, the Federation of Agriculture stated emphatically that this represented a sound national (Please turn to page 40)



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by **DON BARON**
Field Editor

MURRAY SELVES likes to call his program perpetual motion, because it is, in effect, an endless cycle. His land grows corn continuously. The corn is fed to hogs. The hogs produce manure. The manure goes back onto the land to maintain high yields of corn. The cycle goes on and on. And the product of that cycle is pork. It is produced at the impressive rate of 10 pigs per acre or more.

But no matter what you call the program, it has some remarkable features. It gives high returns per acre. It frees Selves from the worry of Prairie drought and rising feed grain costs. It's a low labor program—for the jobs of feeding the hogs and handling the manure are both automated. The only busy times of the year on his farm are at spring seeding and fall harvesting.

For Murray, it's an ideal program for a family farm. It has a big profit potential, and offers a sturdy defense against the cost-price squeeze.

But he hasn't quite reached his goal yet. He only started toward it 4 years ago, when he quit his job as a school teacher (he is a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College) and bought his 100-acre farm at Fullarton, Ont., where he was raised. The farm had an old stable on it, and not much else. But it was a naturally drained farm. He ripped out all the cross-fences, to make way for his corn program. And he began to remodel the old stable to handle his hogs.



On his 100 acres at Fullarton, Ont., Selves plans to produce 100 bushels of corn per acre, with liquid manure from his hogs as an aid to fertility.

KEY TO CHEAPER PORK:

This is the way that Murray Selves sees it—

- **Feed 1,000 to 1,200 hogs in one year.**
- **Produce 10,000 bushels of corn from 100 acres.**
- **Put the two together and a 25¢ hog market will return \$400 per acre.**

He fed off about 1,000 hogs last year, and he will increase that this year. But he is still buying some of the feed. He has grown 50 acres of corn this year. Next year, it will be all corn. And every year after, he expects it will be the same.

Murray has spent most of the past 4 years searching for the best methods of handling his hogs, growing and handling the corn, and handling the manure. He has visited other hogmen, called in at experimental farms and read farm papers in this search. His program is taking shape rapidly.

Despite his reliance on corn,

Selves is aiming for high-quality hogs. "Two factors are involved in quality," he says, "rations, and breeding stock." He has been full-feeding corn for the past year, and 65 to 70 per cent of the hogs on this feed program have made A grade carcasses. "That's only fair," he says. He is aiming to improve on that.

"Most of the credit for these good grades must go to the pigs," he believes. "They are the right type to remain lean, despite the high energy rations."

That lean type of hog is no accident. Two farmers supply Murray with all his pigs. He pays a premium price for them, and the farmers are

following a careful breeding program.

"Even so, this is only the first step," Murray stated. His next step will be to have every pig identified while it is still on the sow. He will keep records on how each of them grades out on the rail. Then, he can identify the sows and boars that are doing the best job, and keep breeding stock from them.

But the big change is going to have to come in his feeding program. He figures he must limit feed intake, if he is to get high grades. He tried bulking up the corn rations with oats or corn cobs to reduce the hogs' rate of gain during the finish-

(Please turn to next page)



[Guide photos]



Corn is high in energy for fast, efficient gains. Limiting the amount fed during the finishing period also helps toward production of quality hogs.



Murray Selves gets 65 to 70 per cent grade A's on corn, aims at 85 or 90.

ing period. But he now considers the method was a failure.

"You simply reduce the efficiency of the ration. The only sound way will be to actually reduce feed intake," he concluded. He knows of one hogman in the United States who has devised an automatic feeding system for hogs. Pigs are fed mechanically, eight times per day. Feed is dropped from the feeder right onto the pen floors. Total amount for each pig during the finishing period never exceeds 5 lb. per day.

Selves hopes to devise a similar system: "By actually limiting the amount fed, we can stay on straight corn rations, which are the best, and still get good grades. It will give the advantage of the old slop-feeding

programs of a generation ago, but with the benefits of automation thrown in."

How high is he aiming in quality? "It should be possible to get 85 or 90 per cent A's under sound breeding and feeding programs," is his answer.

Manure is the other material that offers him a challenge. He doesn't want to waste it, for he thinks that once his land is built up, the manure, with little or no commercial fertilizer, should maintain high corn production. His answer is a liquid manure tank. A partially covered drain, running through his pens, empties into a huge, 150,000 gal., concrete tank he built. Gravity carries the manure to the tank, which is 48 ft. square, 8 ft. deep at the

edges and 12 ft. deep at the center. The tank is built to hold a year's supply of manure—and it can be pumped out and the manure spread on the ground in the spring before seeding.

His rations will be virtually all corn. A basic mix of 1,600 lb. of corn, will be balanced by adding 400 lb. of soybean meal as well as some vitamins and minerals. Time will tell whether meat meal or other ingredients will be required.

He has his own grinder-mixer, as part of his mechanical feeding system. The grain corn will be stored in the fall as dry grain. A 4,000-bu. steel bin with a drying floor in it, which he bought this fall, will look after the drying.—D.R.B. v

"No Future" Farm Takes a Step Forward

"THERE didn't seem to be a future. We made plans, but every year we seemed to be staying in the same place. We kept paying off debts, but we never improved our position."

That was the way life looked to Bruce Martin back in 1959. Like many another young farmer, he did not have the resources to go upward and he was in danger of going under.

At that time his farm at Nesbitt, Man., consisted of 3 quarter-sections plus 40 acres. About half of that was cultivated for grain production and the rest was bushland. He had a modest but comfortable new house and an inadequate barn. There were six head of mixed grade cattle, including four milk cows, and he shipped cream. He had 100 chickens and sold the eggs, apart from those needed for family use. These products, with his grain, represented the entire income for Bruce, his wife and the children, and it was not enough.

Bruce decided that he would need another quarter-section of cultivable land to pull him through. So he wrote to the Farm Credit Corporation and made an application for a loan to cover the additional land and to square up his debts.

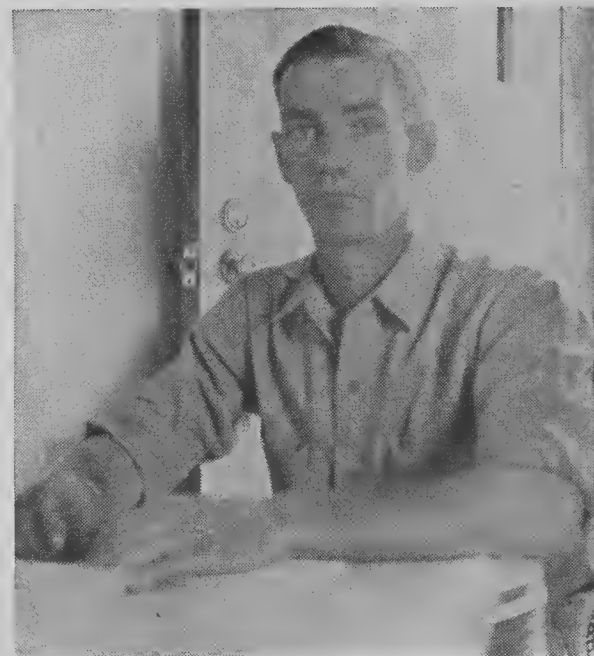
"I'm sure glad I had the sense to do it," he says now. "They sent one of their field supervisors to talk over my plan and advise me on how to make the farm into a paying unit. They thought my ideas didn't go far enough and proposed a new plan. I could see it was very sound but, until then, I didn't know that I would be able to afford it."

This is what happened. The FCC pointed out that Martin had a big acreage of waste land which could be made productive by raising more beef. With this and increased grain production, his farm could become a going concern. He would need 9 more cows, the extra quarter-section, and a new barn measuring 30 ft. by

*Proper management of debt
and better use of land
give Bruce Martin a fresh start*

by **RICHARD COBB**
Field Editor

Bruce Martin, at the kitchen table, makes entries in his record book. He pays a fee to FCC for assistance in analyzing results from his records.



[Guide photo]

40 ft., with a capacity for 15 head of cattle in winter, and storage in the loft for hay and straw. By using his livestock and equipment as security, they could lend him sufficient to cover the cost of those items and pay off his existing debts. And they would arrange repayments that he could handle. The FCC took security in both livestock and equipment.

The acquisition of new land would give him an extra 140 acres of land under cultivation on a quarter-section. This not only provided a well-needed boost in crop production, but meant that he could get more economical service from his power equipment.

Martin found that his neighbors were eager to help him build the new barn, and he did it for \$2,500. He spent \$1,650 on increasing his herd of cattle to 13. The additional land enabled him to switch to a half-crop on 410 acres. He could produce 75 per cent of his hay without cutting into the grain acreage, and he has broken up some saline

land to make up the difference. He thinks he might increase his fenced pasture acreage, and he will feed out his own cattle. As he does not have a bull, he has turned to A.I. for breeding.

UNDER these new circumstances, Bruce Martin finds he has all the work he can handle on his own. He has an 8-year-old son and two little girls, so there is no reason to expand his operations greatly for them at present.

His own comment is that repayments to FCC are within his means. In fact, the larger cattle enterprise "more than pays for them." He has taken advantage of the low-cost life insurance offered by FCC to cover the loan on a diminishing basis. He also uses the FCC supervisory service, which helps him to keep and analyze his record books for a fee of \$25 a year. "They help me any time I need advice," he says.

Last year was a bad time to make the fresh start that Bruce Martin had hoped for. The drought held his

grain crop down to 800 bushels, and he had to keep 200 bushels of that for this year's seeding. He also ran very short of feed. "But it would have been worse if I hadn't been able to reorganize my debts and increase my operation," he said.

Having weathered a tough year, the future really began for Bruce in 1962, with moisture back in the ground, even if there was a little too much at times. Smooth sailing in the farming business is practically unknown and, pleasant as that would be, all he ever asked was to be given a chance. Anybody who has been saddled with debts at quite high rates of interest, and with relatively little income to pay them off and have something left over for tomorrow, will understand the predicament he was in.

But, at last, he has been offered a chance and means to use it. Bruce Martin looked up from the account book he had laid out on the kitchen table, and remarked, "There's a lot to be done, but we're off to a good start now." v

CO-OPERATING

-but keeping it informal

The Williamsons each farm separately, pay for using one another's machines, and get along fine

by **CLIFF FAULKNER**
Field Editor

ORMSBY A. WILLIAMSON and his three farming sons are free enterprisers. They don't believe in co-operatives or co-operative farming. But they do believe in individual co-operation.

As far as location goes, the four Williamson farms are "naturals" for a co-operative farming venture. For one thing, their combined acreage forms a block of land along Russell Creek, just south of Pambrun, Sask. Too, all their homes and buildings are grouped together on the same farmstead. In fact, a single farm sign at the entrance to their driveway serves all four families. Yet each operates his own place independently.

There is, however, no lack of co-operation between family members. Soft water collected in a rain cistern in the basement of Williamson senior's home is pumped to the other houses when needed. They are joint owners in the farmstead's seed drying plant. But apart from this, each has his own livestock, pasture and crop land. If one family member uses machinery or equipment belonging to another, he pays for it.

Said Ormsby Williamson: "I think every man should run his own show. There's a lot of good in rivalry. We have so many co-operatives today we're gradually losing our freedom."

Mr. Williamson came to the Russell Creek area (it was called Whiskey Creek then) from Toronto in 1908. He and a friend got off the train just west of Moose Jaw and made the rest of the journey on a wagon pulled by a four-horse team. First they followed a RNWMP telegraph trail south to Old Wives Lake (then Johnson Lake), then headed southwest across the trackless prairie to try to hit a survey being run for the projected Weyburn to Lethbridge rail line. When they reached their destination they homesteaded.

From the album of his memory, Ormsby Williamson can reel off good and bad crop years from 1908 to the present one. He started off by growing wheat and oats, then branched into beef cattle and purebred horses (Clydesdales). But one picture appears with disturbing frequency—a picture of crops starved for moisture. These drought periods come in cycles, but not in cycles of equal duration. Like many others, he had to sell his cattle during the Thirties because there hadn't been enough rain to grow the necessary feed. The horses—a vital power source in those days—were shipped hundreds of miles north to Meadow Lake so there would be winter feed.

AT the end of the Thirties, Mr. Williamson found he could solve part of his moisture problems by "runoff" irrigation. If he diked up his lower fields he would be able to draw runoff water from 16 square miles of hillside and flood those fields each spring.

"This turned out to be a good form of irrigation," he said. "Once I'd made the dikes and spillways there was very little cost to it."

The flooding system is still used, but extra water is now available from a dam on Russell Creek. This was built by PFRA in the early

Fifties to supply stock and irrigation water for about 1,000 acres. At present, three other families are using this water. It is administered under the "Russell Creek Water Users Association." Charges levied are one dollar an acre per year.

Today, Ormsby Williamson has reduced his activities to growing wheat, flax and Russian wild ryegrass on about four quarters. All the irrigable land is now owned by John, George and Robert. "Irrigation is a young man's game," he smiled.

John, the eldest, raises commercial beef cattle, seed barley, oats, and Russian wild rye. George and Robert have sheep, barley, oats, Russian wild rye and crested wheatgrass. The sheep are a Suffolk-Rambouillet cross for commercial production, and a herd of registered Columbias. All three brothers use their grass seed aftermaths for



George Williamson owns cleaning plant, handles seed for all four, also does some custom work.

hay and pasture. Russian wild rye, in particular, provides excellent summer and fall pasture.

FOR years the Williamsons rotated their land between wheat and summerfallow. When unsold wheat started to pile up and runoff water began to take some of their soil with it, they decided they had better change their tactics. They paid a visit to the Swift Current Experimental Farm looking for "another crop." If possible, they wanted one that would solve both their wheat surplus and erosion problems. They gained this and more.

Dr. Dave Heinrichs sold them on the merits of growing grass seed. Animal husbandryman Peter Myhr suggested sheep to use up the by-products of the seed crops. When combined close to the heads, the grass provides a hay cut, then a long period of first-class grazing. Because perennial crops don't have to be plowed and sown each year, there is a bonus in reduced labor costs.

Once the deep-rooted grasses became firmly established, the Williamsons found their soil erosion troubles were over. Their irrigation water played a vital role in getting these grasses started. Using the tried-and-true border dike method, each brother floods his bottom land with both runoff and canal water every spring. In low rain-



Ormsby Williamson first saw Russell Creek back in 1908. Now he and his three sons farm there.



John Williamson, eldest son, raises commercial beef cattle. Creep-feeder is in the background.



Robert Williamson, seen here on a combine, has Suffolk-Rambouillet sheep, and so has George.

fall years, they use Russell Creek water for a late fall irrigation. On higher ground, the water is pumped up and spread through gated pipes placed at right angles to the crop rows.

THE Williamsons are equipped to dry and clean both grain and grass seed on their own premises. Their jointly-owned dryer contains twelve 2,000-bushel bins, for a total capacity of 24,000 bushels. The cleaning plant, which belongs to George, handles the seed of all four, plus custom cleaning work from as far away as 100 miles.

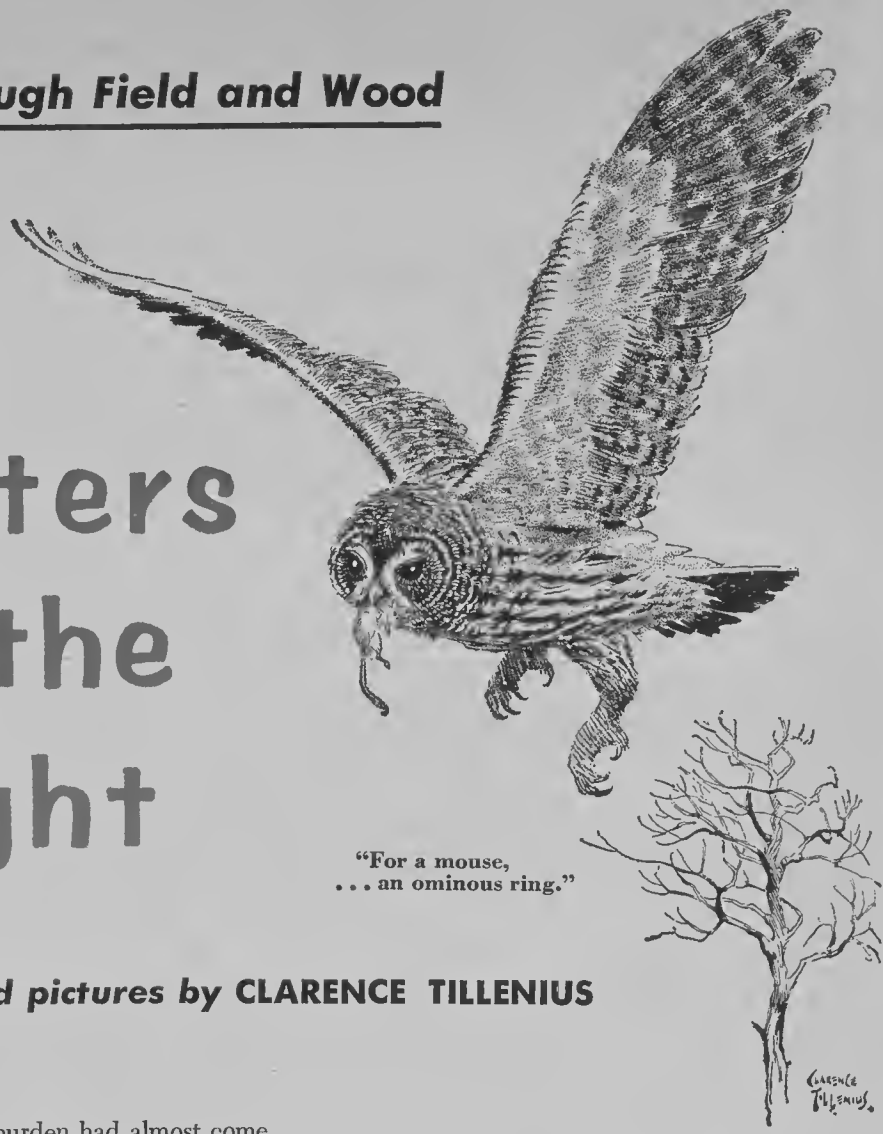
As you enter this plant, one of the first things to catch your eye is a polyethylene-covered rack containing several agricultural booklets. Here they stay clean and out of the way, but are handy to the job when needed.

One of the main reasons the Williamsons have made a success of their switch from straight grain growing to sheep, cattle and seed is that they know how to use the services provided by Federal and provincial agriculture departments. Every couple of weeks or so they pay a visit to the Swift Current Experimental Farm to keep abreast of any new developments. They have found there is a wealth of technical information and help available for the asking.



"... the great dark shape, floating silently ..."

Hunters of the Night



"For a mouse,
... an ominous ring."

Words and pictures by CLARENCE TILLENIUS

THERE was not much to mark the place as the scene of tragedy—a bloody spot in the snow, a few bones and the pathetic-looking hind foot of a snowshoe hare lying partly across a dead stub sticking out of a drift.

A hare had here been killed and eaten, obviously: but from where had he come? Not a rabbit track showed anywhere around.

A little distance away, was a long depression in the snow; a kind of long scrape; and a few feet farther another, and yet another. They were not the marks of any animal, and yet they must have been made by *something*. Beside one of them a little farther away some object was lying on the snow.

It was a feather: wonderfully soft, tawny-colored with faint pencillings of brown—the feather of a Great Horned Owl. The long scrapings in the snow were now clear: he had been flying with the hare and the weight had been more than he could support in the air. Every

so often the owl and his burden had almost come to ground and only frantic flapping—which explained the dislodged feather—got them airborne again.

It was a curiosity now to see how the owl made his capture. The chain of irregular marks in the snow led toward a distant swamp, and there the whole story lay revealed in the tell-tale snow.

There had been a snowstorm the day before but the evening had been clear and cold, a full moon making the open glades almost as bright as day.

As the first rays of the rising moon reached the snowdrifts piled among the willows at the swamp border, a cautious movement of the dry rushes betrayed the movement of some animal.

A sudden twitch of long ears showed it to be a snowshoe hare, gleaming spectrally in his white coat. A slow hop, and then another, carried him into the open and into the moonlight.

As he sat up stiffly, nose twitching, a willow shoot beside him caught his eye. Cutting it off, he began to chew it, the scissoring of his teeth making a faint rasping noise in the absolute stillness.

The sound, or his scent, betrayed him. A set of tracks coming up from the lower end of the swamp showed where a red fox, trotting along on the eternal quest for food, had suddenly halted and begun a careful, silent stalk toward the feeding hare.

At the last movement the snowshoe must have been warned by some inner sense, for he had suddenly bolted and raced away in a wide circle through the undergrowth. The tracks of the fox cut across the circle and closed the gap between them.

The hare, suddenly aware that the fox was somewhere in the thicket beyond him, made a mortal misjudgment. He dashed out of the bushes and into the deep soft drifts beyond. It was a fatal error. Inside the thicket, running easily on the hard-packed rabbit trails crisscrossing everywhere, he might have escaped: outside, in the deep snow, the advantage was all with the foe.

Ahead of him lay sanctuary: a long low bank of rushes, briars and deadfalls where he might evade his enemy: he put forth every effort to reach it. For a few moments the fox fell behind. The trail in the snow showed the hare traveling in great bounds, the "snowshoe" prints with every toe spread wide all told of a desperate race for life.

But what had happened? The tracks suddenly ended: in their place a depression as though something had pressed the hare deep in the snow. At each side were long parallel marks as though scraped by giant fingers.

Here the owl had struck. Coasting like a shadow over the woods, he had seen the hare burst out of the willows and marked him for his



Great Horned Owl Hunting at Twilight (painting by Clarence Tillenius).

own. He had not seen the fox pursuing, and would not have cared if he had: game belongs to him who captures it.

Now the fox had appeared, and rushed madly to overtake and save his hard-earned prey: but too late. The owl was the winner.

SUCH happenings, tragic perhaps for the soft-hearted to contemplate, are part of the daily life of the woods; and anyone who frequents the hunting grounds of the Great Horned Owl will find many evidences of this owl's power and skill as a hunter.

In the twilight and the pre-dawn gloom the great dark shape, floating silently over hillside and marsh, strikes terror into the gnawers among the grass roots.

The farmer, too, may well dread his occasional visit. Turkeys roosting in bare branches beyond the henhouse; a cluster of white ducks huddled on the shore of the farm pond; rats stirring along the barn wall; nothing escapes those night-piercing yellow eyes.

But when the owl hunts around the farm yard, it is most often rats he is looking for: and as a matter the Great Horned Owl puts the fiercest cat to shame. And many a night-hunting cat, too,

has had his life snuffed out by the "winged tiger."

But there are many other owls, among them the Barred Owl of the deep evergreen forest. He it is whose demoniacal hootings and shoutings sometimes prick the scalp of an unaccustomed camper. There is no danger, though—at least for men. For a mouse, these concerts could well have an ominous ring.

Birds of the night are they all, the owls. Yet they can see by day: and some of them hunt by day as well as by night. That winter visitor, the big white Arctic Owl, is often seen winnowing over the white stubble fields—unwelcome sight to field mouse or jackrabbit. The Short-eared Owl of the western plains, the Hawk Owl of the northern forests, both are efficient day hunters.

The owls have apparently always had a significance for man: often a sinister meaning. To me as a painter they are engrossing. The time they choose for hunting (that mysterious, weird interval between day and night, when the fading light seems to invest even a familiar landscape with an unfathomable strangeness) grips the painter with a desire to try to render this, to somehow place on canvas the "something" about these birds that has given them the place they have held so long in the minds of men.



Barred Owls at Nest Tree (painting by Clarence Tillenius).

Law on the Farm

MAINLY ABOUT Contracts

by ALEX B. WEIR

Edmonton Lawyer

COULD a farmer, after reading the advertisement on the right, force Hal to sell the two trucks for a total of \$1,500? Could Hal be forced to sell one of the station wagons or convertibles for \$500?

Actually Hal would be within his legal rights to refuse to enter into such a contract. It wouldn't even make any difference if Hal intended the advertisement to be in its present form, or if the publisher made a mistake in the price of the vehicles. Some businessmen might willingly enter into such a contract as part of a future advertising program. However, the law courts would unquestionably rule that such an advertisement was simply an invitation for someone to make an offer. Furthermore, Hal would have the right to ignore the offer or accept it.

A sign placed over the windshield of one of these station wagons reading "\$500" would also be legally classified as an invitation. By the same token a farmer is invited to make an offer every time he receives a quotation. Thus a telegram to Joe Sterrenberg of Consort, Alta., reading, "We quote you 80¢ per bu. for No. 1 Northern wheat" must be interpreted by Joe as simply an invitation for him to make such an offer.

Essentials of a Contract

A contract can be described as an understanding between two or more persons that creates legal rights and responsibilities. It must contain an offer, acceptance and consideration. It is important to note that not every understanding will create these legal rights and responsibilities. The usual domestic arrangements between a husband and wife are not legally enforceable. Nor are social arrangements, such as an understanding among four farmers to travel together to the 1963 annual meeting of the CFA.

An offer. An offer may be accepted at any time within a reasonable period by the person to whom the offer was made. The reasonableness of the

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<hr/>		
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1960 Models		
<hr/>		
<i>Many more specials too numerous to mention</i>		
<hr/>		
\$AVE YOUR DOLLAR\$ — BUY NOW!		

This is only a sample — but could it be a real contract?

time period naturally depends upon the circumstances. Thus, an offer to sell fresh strawberries would be capable of acceptance within a shorter period of time than an offer to sell a plow.

However, an offer may be withdrawn at any time as long as it is accomplished before the acceptance is made. This withdrawal must be communicated to the person to whom the offer was made before it is legally effective.

A counter-offer will automatically cancel the original offer. This legal principle worked one time to the advantage of Jim Watt of Pictou, Nova Scotia. It seems that Jim offered to buy an Arabian mare from Joe Sterrenberg for \$1,000. Joe replied stating that he would sell the mare in question for \$1,500. After a lengthy interval, Joe sent Jim a telegram accepting Jim's \$1,000

offer. However, by this time, Jim had bought a suitable horse, and he advised Joe to that effect. At this point, Joe immediately contacted a lawyer and was advised that his \$1,500 counter-offer cancelled Jim's \$1,000 offer.

It is also well established that cross-offers do not make a binding contract. Let us assume that the previous circumstances were somewhat different. Suppose Jim had mailed an offer to buy Joe's Arabian mare for \$1,000 at the same time that Joe mailed an offer to sell him the mare in question for \$1,000. There would not be a concluded contract at that point as neither Jim nor Joe would have to accept the other's offer.

Acceptance. A contract is generally completed when the letter of acceptance is posted. This legal principle developed after the post office had

MAINLY ABOUT CONTRACTS—Continued

become the usual method for communicating in business. Consider how this could affect a person who made an offer and shortly thereafter wanted to withdraw it. Wallace Murray of Victoria, B.C., having almost concluded a deal on a nice acreage near Victoria, sent an offer by mail to a large poultry rancher. He offered to buy 2,000 healthy laying chickens for \$2,500. Ten days after mailing this offer, the negotiations regarding the acreage folded because the acreage was sold to someone else. Then Wallace immediately contacted the poultry rancher in order to withdraw his offer. However, it seems that the poultry rancher had mailed his letter of acceptance the previous day. Therefore, the contract was legally binding on both parties even though Wallace had communicated his intention to withdraw his offer before he was personally aware of the acceptance.

Wallace could have prevented this result if he had stipulated in his offer that the acceptance had to be communicated to him personally before it was binding. If he had done this, then the contract would not have been completed, as the withdrawal was made before the acceptance was personally communicated. Wallace could have played it even more safely by not making an offer on the chickens at all until the deal on the acreage was finalized.

Consideration. Every legally enforceable contract must also contain consideration. This may involve some benefit to the party making the promise or, on the other hand, may involve some trouble or inconvenience to the party to whom the promise is made. The law demands that the consideration must be of some value, but it doesn't inquire into the adequacy of the consideration.

Thus the courts would probably recognize an option given by the directors of the Cee Bar Cee Ranch Ltd., of Alberta, to John Park,

whereby John could buy the ranch for \$500,000 within one month from the date of the option, even if the consideration for this option contract was only \$5. However if the consideration was only one cent, then the option would probably not stand up in court.

It also seems that moral consideration, based simply upon affection, will not make a contract enforceable. Thus a father's promise that, upon his retirement, he will transfer his combine to his oldest son would not be sufficient, unless there was some other consideration in addition to this moral consideration.

Auctions

An announcement that Joe Sterenberg will sell all his cattle at public auction to the highest bidder simply indicates his intention to hold an auction. He would be within his legal rights to cancel this auction even at the last minute. Every bid at the auction itself would amount to an offer which could be withdrawn at any time by the bidder before it was accepted. The acceptance is completed when the auctioneer's hammer falls. Consequently, no legal rights and responsibilities are created until the acceptance of the bid is signified by the auctioneer in some intentional manner.

Language Requirements

The words used in a contract should clearly express the intentions of the parties involved. It is usually safe to consider that the meaning of the words, as given in a standard English dictionary, will prevail. It has been held, however, that where a word in a contract has a scientific meaning, as well as a popular meaning, and the contract involves some specialized business, then the parties will be presumed to have used the word in its scientific sense.

Statute of Frauds Rule

Most contracts entered into daily are verbal ones. It would certainly

be unreasonable when buying one copy of this magazine to insist that a written contract be prepared and executed to record the transaction. However, all contracts involving a reasonable amount of money or time should be formally prepared. A written contract can certainly lessen the possibility that the terms of the contract may be later misunderstood. Unfortunately, the parties to a verbal contract, although basically honest, often disagree at a later stage over some important term of the contract.

The Statute of Frauds rule insists that some contracts must be in writing in order to be legally actionable. For example, a contract that is not to be performed within the first year must be in writing. Thus, if a rancher hired a foreman on the condition that neither party could withdraw within the first year, even by notice, then such a contract would have to be in writing in order to be legally enforceable. This particular principle is not affected by the fact that the parties may have honored the contract for more than a year anyway.

Land Transactions

All of our provinces have legislation requiring that any contract involving an interest in land must be in writing. A procedure for registering an interest in land is also established, although the provinces have adopted different procedural steps to follow.

The advisability of having a lawyer prepare and supervise the execution of all written contracts cannot be overemphasized. This applies even more so to contracts involving an interest in land. The lawyer representing the vendor of an interest in land is usually responsible for properly preparing the necessary documents. He must also ensure that his client has received all of the monies to which he is entitled before possession is given to the purchaser. This includes the agreed amount for the particular interest in land, an amount to cover the vendor's interest in any property insurance that is being assigned to the purchaser, and the necessary adjustment on the property taxes.

The purchaser's lawyer, on the other hand, would have the responsibility of satisfactorily registering the interest of his client in the land in question. He makes certain that all property tax arrears and arrears in water rate and water right payments, if any, have been paid by the vendor. In fact, he must take care of the registration before the vendor is paid the monies to which he is entitled. This is to ensure that the vendor has the interest in the land that he is selling.

Lease forms available at most stationery stores are seldom satisfactory for establishing a contract to rent land. A lease for rental of farm or ranch lands should specify in detail the responsibilities of both the lessor who is the owner of the land and the lessee, who is the person renting the land. Besides being responsible to pay rent, the lessee may be required to pay all taxes, assessments and levies affect-



Alex Weir says farmers should at least have important contracts prepared by a lawyer.

ing the leased premises including water, gas, phone, and electrical rates. It is usually provided that the leased premises must be used exclusively for farming and ranching operations and activities. Sometimes a provision is made whereby the lessee must plant, summerfallow and break for cultivation a specific number of acres during each year that the lease is in operation.

The lessor usually agrees to allow the lessee quiet enjoyment of the leased premises. Sometimes he allows the lessee to sublet or assign his interest under the lease. The lease should also outline who is responsible for any repairs and alterations to the fences, buildings, and irrigation and water storage systems. The lease moreover, should indicate who is responsible for adjustments when any structure on the premises is destroyed or partially destroyed; who pays for the necessary property insurance; as well as the notice required in order to cancel the lease.

The specific contents of a lease should vary with the requirements of both parties to the lease. The lessor should ensure that the rent he receives will be a reasonable return on his investment. The lessee, on the other hand, should be reasonably certain that he will be able to pay the rent and other operating expenses, while providing a reasonable income for himself. In many cases the rent consists of a certain percentage of the crop harvested. Sometimes the rent depends solely upon the weight of the livestock that are marketed. These practices earn more profits for the lessor during a successful year, and they protect the lessee in a poor year from being ruined.

Legal Advice

Many farmers may find it advantageous to hire a lawyer on a retainer fee basis. If this is not done, farmers should at least have all of their important contracts prepared in final form by a lawyer. Besides the drafting problems, many contracts have to be registered in order to receive full effect. For example, a farmer receiving a chattel mortgage on a motor vehicle as security for a loan may find that this security is totally useless if it is not appropriately registered. Farmers should look upon consulting a lawyer as a sound business practice. This will harvest dividends over the years. V

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Twice as Many “A” Hogs through Restricted Feeding

Howard Huctwith got over 60 per cent A's when he quit using self-feeders. Researchers are getting similar results

THE next big step in cutting costs and boosting profits on hog farms could well be restricted feeding.

Howard Huctwith, who feeds off about 1,600 hogs a year at Forest, Ont., tried it for a few months with such startling benefits that he exclaims, “When this one practice can reduce costs, increase returns, and



Feeds are hand-mixed in the cart and then dumped down chutes to pens.

provide a better product for the consumer, it just can't be overlooked.”

On his self-feeding program, Huctwith's hogs had been grading out badly. Once his restricted hogs began going to market, over 60 per cent of them graded A. From November 1 to February 21, he marketed 63 per cent A's or 142 A's, 82 B's, and 2 C's.

To prove to himself that it was the feeding system that made the

difference, he went back to self-feeding during the summer. Quality fell sharply. In August, he had less than 15 per cent A's, marketing 11 A's, 51 B's, and 22 C's.

“The method of feeding was the only thing that changed,” he states. “We have our own sow herd. The pigs coming from it to our feeding pens, are uniform. We fed the same rations too—three parts corn, one part oats, along with the required concentrate.”

HUCTWITH was finding out for himself what researchers are finding out too. In trials at the University of Alberta, hogs that are restricted are giving higher grades and a 10 per cent improvement in feed efficiency. A commercial feed company, with its research farm in Ontario, reports similar results — twice as many hogs grading out A carcasses, and 10 per cent less feed to get a hog to market weight.

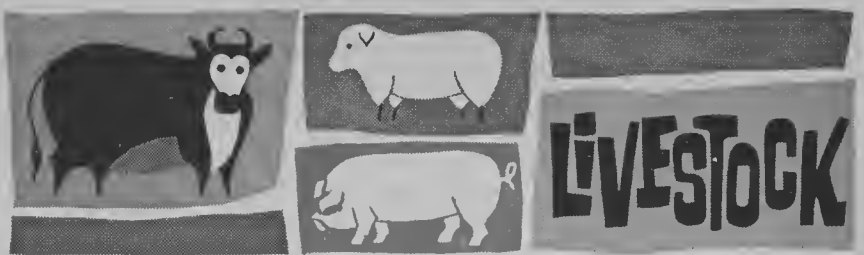
The idea is even catching on in the U.S. corn belt where fat hogs have long been the accepted standard. Producers there are becoming aware that fat pork is in disfavor; that lean meat is demanded by the housewife. Dr. G. E. Becker of the University of Illinois is advising hog farmers to restrict their hogs to a maximum of 5 lb. of feed per day.

The only apparent penalty that goes with restricted feeding is the slower gain that is made. It takes longer to get the hog to a market finish. Huctwith found the difference to be about 2 weeks. Research results indicate about the same thing.

But Huctwith reports one other surprising advantage of the system. “We expected the hogs to be very noisy, since they are constantly hungry. This didn't happen. They



When he introduced the restricted feeding, Huctwith took out these self-feeders and dumped a measured ration down chutes onto the floor of pens.



H. Huctwith says producers can't afford to ignore restricted feeding.

ate the feed given to them, then they lay down quietly 'til next feeding time. They even seemed to stay cleaner, because they were less active.”

WHILE the practice of restricted feeding does give good results, the big difficulty is, how do you do it? Self-feeding has become popular in recent years because it saves labor — an important point on specialized hog farms.

In Huctwith's barn, rations are mixed by hand in a feed cart in the feed room above the hog pens, and used to be dumped down chutes to self-feeders in the hog pens below. When he decided to restrict the amount fed, Huctwith simply removed the self-feeders and dumped the right amount of feed down the chute onto the concrete floor. The system worked fairly well, but he prefers to have his pigs eating out of a hopper or trough. Now, he is remodeling another barn and providing one foot of trough space per hog. Some producers, who are also convinced that limited feeding pays, are searching for a mechanical means of restricting the amount fed. Such feeders will undoubtedly be available before long. —D.R.B.

Sheep Took to Pelleted Roughage

COMPLETE, self-fed rations for ewes have turned out well in tests at the University of Wisconsin. In a 2-year trial with 25 ewes, it was found that very low-quality roughages, such as oat straw, corn cobs, and stemmy hay, could be put in pellets along with minerals and proteins to make good rations for

ewes, before and after lambing. The cheap roughages made up 85 per cent of the ration.

Ewes seemed to like pelleted feeds better than other forms. When hay was pelleted rather than chopped, they ate 25 per cent more. Several methods were tried for limiting the amount of pelleted ration the ewes would eat, because they liked it so well they were eating more than they needed. It was found that 10 per cent common salt added to the pellets would limit the intake of pregnant ewes, but not those with sucking lambs.

By keeping ewes away from pelleted hay for alternate 24 hours, it was possible to limit feed consumption to an economical level, which was roughly the same as that of ewes on chopped hay. This is known as “space feeding.” It did not cause any ill effects on body weight or lamb production.

The main advantage of pelleted roughage is the saving in labor. Pellets are much easier to handle than bulk hay, and ewes don't need to be fed every day.

Winter Rations for Beef Calves

PLAN now to winter beef calves in a way that will give maximum returns. Dr. S. B. Slen of the Lethbridge Research Station, Alta., recommends that calves wintered for later fattening should be given mainly roughage for the first winter so as to keep feed costs as low as possible. But they must be kept growing satisfactorily on sufficient protein, energy, minerals and vitamins, which will meet their normal requirements plus a small gain.

Experiments have shown that if calves are carried next summer on average pasture or range without grain, winter gains should not be too large or the summer gains on pasture will be reduced somewhat. So Dr. Slen recommends 5 to 10 lb. of grass-alfalfa hay, depending on their size, and 1 lb. of oats, minerals, and vitamins, so that they will gain ½ to ¾ lb. per day. If calves are to be grazed on irrigated pastures with grain, or will stay in dry-lot during the following spring and summer, they should have 2 to 4 lb. of grain daily, plus mineral and vitamin supplements to keep them growing in winter at about 1 lb. per day.

If wintering beef calves are fed good alfalfa hay *ad lib.*, they will consume 8 to 13 lb. each per day, depending on size, and should gain about ¾ lb. per day. They must clean up their daily allotment to avoid waste and reduce bloat. One method is to feed about 5 lb. of alfalfa hay per day with 2 to 4 lb. of grain, and straw *ad lib.*

Grass hay is normally too low in protein to be used as the only feed.



LET'S PUT DAIRY FOODS BACK IN BALANCE

The current marketing position of milk and milk products demands action from producers. It is a matter of clear-cut necessity that something be done to:

- Lessen the industry's dependence on a support program for its existence.
- Combat the misunderstanding of medical and pseudo-medical pronouncements which have cast doubts upon the wholesomeness and healthfulness of milk and milk products.
- Offset the ever-increasing competition for the consumer's food dollars by those imitators and competitors who seek a larger and larger share of milk's traditional markets.
- Arrest and reverse the downward trend in per capita consumption of dairy foods.
- Maintain dairy farming as a productive and rewarding way of life.

The directors of Dairy Farmers of Canada and your delegates to the annual meeting in January will need the support of all their fellow producers in considering an expanded program of dairy foods promotion. Make sure they can count on you.



DAIRY FARMERS OF CANADA
147 Davenport Road, Toronto 5, Ont.

Add ½ to 1 lb. of protein supplement to the daily ration.

Straw needs a great deal of supplementation and should be fed in conjunction with other feeds. ✓

Ewes Got A Sweet Diet

SHEEPMEN need to pay more attention to the importance of high energy feeds for ewes during the last 6 weeks to 2 months of pregnancy. A. J. Charnetski, Alberta's livestock supervisor, says that sheepmen in the south of the province could take a look at sugar by-products for filling energy requirements, and those in the north could use grain feeding to assure stronger lambs at birth.

Quoting an experiment on a farm in Cambridgeshire, England, Charnetski says lambing was made easier as a result of feeding sugar to half-bred Suffolk ewes. The first lambs were born without difficulty and, as lambing progressed, the benefits of sugar became more apparent. Not only did lambs become stronger on their legs at an earlier age, but there was a marked absence of undersized lambs even among triplets and quadruplets. Losses were also low.

In this test, 42 lb. of sugar was added to each 1,120 lb. of feed for ewes. The ration was in cube form and was fed for a month before lambing at a rate which increased from 4 to 16 ounces per head. Sugar was given also to the lambs in their creep feed. ✓

How to Beat Calf Pneumonia

DRAFTS, damp quarters, and poor ventilation can provide the right conditions for calf pneumonia. If you guard against these conditions, losses from pneumonia can be significantly reduced, advises the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association.

The Association reports that mixed bacterins have been used with some success to build up resistance to pneumonia, but viruses often cause the ailment and bacterins are no use in these cases.

Penicillin, which is effective against pneumonia in humans and hogs, seems to be of little value in cattle. However, certain medicines and some of the newer antibiotics are now saving calf victims of pneumonia which would have died. The chances of recovery are excellent if a vet. is called soon enough.

The most common symptoms of calf pneumonia are a soft cough, rapid breathing, lack of appetite, high fever, and constipation. Infected pens should be thoroughly disinfected and left vacant for a period to prevent new outbreaks. ✓

Improvement by Crossing Swine

A CROSSBREEDING program can quickly improve litter size, rate of gain, and type in swine herds that are not giving satisfactory returns, says Dr. G. W. Rahnefeld of the Brandon Experimental Farm.

He recommends more than one cross for a successful program. In the first cross there is no improvement in litter size, although litter weight at 154 days can be about 22 per cent greater than that of the parent stock.

Most improvement results from using first-cross females as sows. Litters from these can be 12 per cent larger and weigh 40 per cent more at 154 days than those of the original stock. And, although the crossbred pigs grow faster than purebreds, they need nearly the same amount of feed per pound of gain.

However, it is most important to use good breeding stock to get these results, because the resulting crossbreds tend to be in between the parents as regards type. ✓

Hormone Put Steers 70 lb. Ahead

YEARLING steers implanted with 24-milligram diethylstilbestrol pellets made an extra gain of 70 lb. on pasture in a test, reports P. E. Sylvestre of the Canada Department of Agriculture's Animal Research Institute. Also, the hormone did not affect the carcass grades of the animals.

In the winter preceding the test, 30 animals were divided into 3 groups of equal weight, and were fed different amounts of concentrate. Average daily gains per head in each group during the winter feeding were 0.84, 1.24, and 1.52 lb.

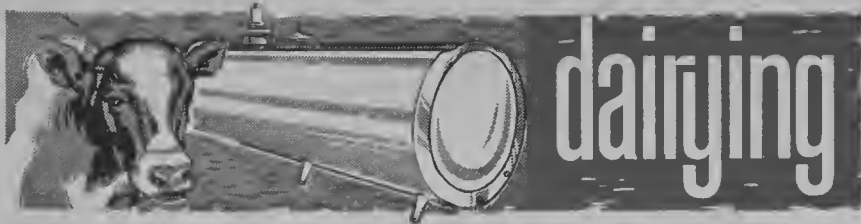
Five steers in each group were implanted and the gain in each group of 5 was about 24 per cent, showing that the effects of the hormone were not influenced by the weight of the animal. The steers were sold off pasture after grazing for 166 days. The implanted steers averaged 1,061 lb. each, and the non-treated ones averaged 991 lb. All carcasses graded Good or Choice except two. ✓

Pigs with Two Fathers

SPLIT litters are a new method of progeny testing for boars now being used in Britain. The idea is to pick elite sires by inseminating one sow with semen from two boars. This gives a split litter, with pigs produced from each sire.

The young pigs are identified by blood grouping and reared under identical conditions. Since the progeny of the two boars are conceived in the same sow, and get the same treatment, any difference in performance must be due to the boar. There is direct comparison of breeding ability, instead of having to allow for variations among dams and environment, which can affect the performance of litters.

The object of the blood test is to measure a boar's ability to transmit useful economic factors to his offspring, especially feed utilization, gain, and carcass quality. The boars are assessed by comparison with a progeny-tested boar of a known blood group, whose performance is rated at 100. ✓



Durable Bedding for His Dairy Cows

*More comfort, less sliding and
fewer injuries with rubber mats*



Rubber cow mats stretch; don't let them hang over gutter, says Bill Hurd. [Gulde photo]

BILL HURD has been using rubber cow mats in his dairy barn at Melfort, Sask., for 4 or 5 years. One of the main advantages, as he sees it, is that the "jumpy" cows can't slide and wind up in the manger, as they were liable to do on concrete.

Another thing he has noticed is that there have been no knee injuries among his cows since he installed the mats, and other injuries have been less severe, such as when they step on their own teats. Rubber mats also permit him to use less straw for bedding, and it stays in place better, so the cows keep drier than they would if the straw bunched up at one side.

The one criticism he has of the mats he is using is that the grooved pattern, something like a tire tread with grooves running in several directions, is awkward for cleaning, and cleanliness is so essential in a dairy operation. He considers that the grooves should run in one direction for easier cleaning, and would still provide sure footing for cows.

When installing a new mat, says Bill Hurd, it's wise to have it a little on the short side, because the mat will stretch and it must not be allowed to overhang the gutter. Also, he used wood screws to secure the mats to the concrete floor, but these were not strong enough and he is replacing them with 1/4-in. lug bolts.

Another idea of his is to have the gutters running slightly "kittycorner," so that all the stanchions are not the same length. This is important because, naturally, all cows are not the same length either. The stanchions increase gradually along one side of the barn, and the corresponding stanchions on the opposite side become progressively shorter.

By putting each cow in an appropriate stanchion, the manure drops into the gutter instead of in the stanchions. He can't understand why so few new dairy barns are built this way.

This trick with the manure also makes the rubber mats do a better job. Bill Hurd says that with proper care they should last for 10 years.—R.C. V

Why the Fuss about Vitamin A?

WHY is there so much talk every winter about vitamin A? Prof. L. Lloyd of Macdonald College, Que., explains that carotene, the source of vitamin A in forage, is found abundantly in green forage material, but it does not store well. By February of each year the vitamin A potency of hay, grass silage, or corn silage is negligible. Vitamin A is stored in the liver of dairy cattle, but prolonged absence of the vitamin from the ration will deplete body reserves.

When the body reserves are exhausted, a variety of symptoms of vitamin A deficiency may occur. Of greatest practical importance is the effect on reproduction—weak calves at birth, failure of the cow to conceive at mating, or failure to come into heat regularly.

Prof. Lloyd advises farmers pre-

paring their own concentrate rations for dairy cattle to include a stabilized source of vitamin A during the winter months at least. The feeding of 25,000 international units of vitamin A per animal per day is a good precaution against a deficiency of the vitamin. The cost of this protection is only about one-quarter of a cent per animal per day. V

Why Tests Will Differ

YOU can expect variations in milk and butterfat tests. In fact, it's pretty unusual if there is no variation, says J. E. Ridley, Saskatchewan's dairy commissioner.

The things that influence milk tests are the stage of lactation, the difference in milking intervals, the quality of feed, any radical change in feeding, and excitement or fear at milking time. Also, butterfat tests of milk are usually highest in fall and winter.

Reasons for changes in butterfat tests of cream are the speed of the separator, the temperature of the milk, the general condition of the separator and its location, the use of water or skim-milk to flush the separator bowl, and an unclean separator. V

Balance the Cow's Ration

MANY winter dairy rations are deficient in energy, although they usually contain sufficient protein, according to Dr. J. M. Asplund of the University of Alberta. He points out that feed is most likely to be low in energy when low-quality roughage is used, when only a limited amount of roughage is fed, when grain allowances are inadequate, and when high-producing cows are being fed.

What can be done about it? Dr. Asplund recommends that all hay and grain should be analyzed so that rations can be balanced for protein. Also, measure the amount of hay the cows are eating (3 lb. of silage equal 1 lb. of hay) because the energy value of hay is almost in direct proportion to the amount consumed. Finally, feed cows according to their milk production on the basis of the table below.

It will be seen from the table that a cow eating 20 lb. of hay and giving less than 30 lb. of milk should receive 1 lb. of grain for each 3 1/4 lb. of milk. But if the cow consumed 20 lb. of hay and gave over 50 lb. of milk a day, she should be allowed 1 lb. of grain for every 1 1/2 lb. of milk. Cows must not be fed more grain than they can safely handle, regardless of what the table shows, but, says Dr. Asplund, it is surprising how much a cow can safely eat if the grain is increased gradually.

Grain per lb. of milk for different levels of milk production
and hay consumption

HAY PER DAY	DAILY MILK PRODUCTION PER COW		
	Under 30 lb. grain-milk ratio	30 to 50 lb. grain-milk ratio	over 50 lb. grain-milk ratio
20 lb.	1 lb. : 3 1/4 lb.	1 lb. : 2 lb.	1 lb. : 1 1/2 lb.
25 lb.	1 lb. : 4 lb.	1 lb. : 2 1/2 lb.	1 lb. : 2 lb.
30 lb.	1 lb. : 5 lb.	1 lb. : 3 lb.	1 lb. : 3 lb.
35 lb.	1 lb. : 7 lb.	1 lb. : 5 1/2 lb.	1 lb. : 4 lb.



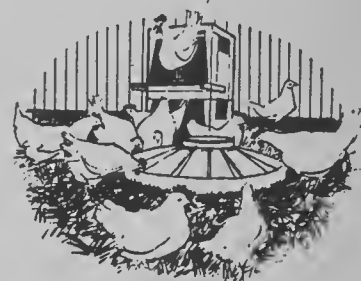
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POULTRY

Some Tips on Automation for Poultry

"A patchwork system doesn't work well in an automated enterprise"



Joe Pearce of Derreen Poultry Farm.

AUTOMATION costs money. If you plan to make your poultry enterprise completely automatic, don't try to revamp existing buildings. It's better to build new ones designed specifically for the equipment you will be using. First, decide how many birds you want, then build your set-up to handle twice that number. This will save you money in the long run.

These are some of the things Joe and Vyvyan Pearce, who own Derreen Poultry Farm Ltd., at Sardis, B.C., discovered when they decided to put their poultry layer business on an automatic basis.

"The cost of machinery to handle 10,000 birds is only about 15 per cent more than the cost of equipment for 5,000," Joe Pearce explained. "The extra capacity is mostly a matter of longer pipes and troughs."

Derreen Poultry Farm produces chicks (day old and up), started pullets (16 weeks of age) and laying hens on order for delivery anywhere. The birds are a White Leghorn strain called Kimber Leghorns. Annual shipment of "ready-to-lays" amounts to about 50,000 hens. In addition to this, the farm provides replacements for its own 20,000-bird laying flock.



Large pipe ventilates pit. Manure is pumped out by overhanging pipe (r).

A "chick year" is about 18 months. When the birds are 5 days old they begin their life of automation. All feeding, watering, temperature control, egg collection, and manure removal are completely mechanical.

THERE are two 250-foot laying houses, each with three "assembly lines" of layers in slatted multiple cages. The lines are individually controlled so that each one can be shut off or activated as needed.

Production lines have continuous water troughs down the center and feed troughs on each side. To drink or feed, the birds have to stick their heads out through slats on top of the cages.

Time clocks in each building are set to feed the birds at 6 a.m. The feed — a standard laying ration



[Guide photos

There are two of these 10,000-bird laying houses especially designed for automation. The plywood bulk feed bins are to be seen nearest the camera.

— is supplied via conveyors from auxiliary hoppers located at the head of each line. When these hoppers are empty, the conveyors shut off. Then overhead augers switch on to refill the hoppers from bulk bins outside. These are filled weekly by truck. Feed consumption is about 30 tons a week.

Laying cage floors are wire mesh so that manure can drop down to conveyors underneath. These are turned on twice a week, transporting manure to a concrete pit between the buildings. From here it can be pumped out and spread on the land.

Cage floors slope outward from the center of each unit. As eggs are laid they roll onto conveyor belts that run along the outer edges of the

production lines. At the end of each line the conveyors make a complete right turn into the egg room, which is also situated between the two laying houses.

If the temperature in the houses rises above 70°F., a fine spray of water falls across the cages from nozzles along each side. This moisture is drawn up through the ceiling by a series of suction fans.

The whole business, from feeding and cleaning to packing and shipping of the eggs is handled by one man and two girls.

"One drawback to a completely automated operation is that in an emergency you can't do part of the job by hand," said Pearce. "If you have a breakdown you have to get in there and fix it FAST!"—C.V.F. V



How to Grow Brussels Sprouts

by MARIE YOUNG

BRUSSELS sprouts are easily grown but, as they take a longer growing season than do most other members of the cabbage family, should be started early in March.

The seeds take 4 to 5 days to germinate. When the second leaves develop, prick out the plants 2 in. each way, then when 2 in. high, transplant a second time, 4 in. apart.

Use good friable soil, which is not too rich, so that good strong roots develop rather than tall lanky tops. Keep where the night temperature is below 60° and, when well established, place in a cold frame to harden them off. This will make good stocky and vigorous plants which will transplant easily and grow rapidly when properly handled.

Plant out in the garden as early as weather permits, 2 ft. apart, in furrows which have been well dusted with aldrin. This will keep away the cutworms. Use the hoe frequently to keep the soil well mulched. A good soaking with liquid manure or a good fertilizer will be beneficial to the plants. The leaves must be frequently and thoroughly dusted with a derris

powder to keep away the cabbage butterfly. This is most important as the cabbage worm can cause extensive damage to the sprouts in a very short time.

Sprout formation starts close to the ground and continues up the stalk. As the buds reach an edible size of 1 to 2 in., the lower leaves should be removed to make harvesting easier. As the stalk grows, more buds and leaves develop, until there is a tall lanky stem with a tuft of leaves above the remaining sprouts.

Brussels sprouts are very hardy and are benefited by some frost, so may be left in the ground until quite late in the fall. They can be successfully stored in a cool cellar by digging them up with some soil attached, transplanting in boxes, and keeping moist. If handled in this way, the small buds will continue to develop and mature.

You can also process Brussels sprouts successfully for storage in the home freezer. They make a delicious fresh green vegetable loaded with vitamins to tempt the jaded winter appetite.

There is no magic formula for growing Brussels sprouts. The key factors are: sensible planning, frequent use of the hoe, and constant spraying. Enthusiastic gardeners, therefore, should have no difficulty in harvesting a bountiful crop. V

Beware of Mice in the Orchard

DEEP snow provides good cover for mice to move into the orchard. So fruit growers would be wise to check their trees for signs of mouse injury. They may feed on the trunk as high as the crust of snow, as well as below ground level, says Prof. C. B. Kelly of O.A.C.

If fresh signs of mice are found, Prof. Kelly recommends a teaspoonful of zinc phosphide with cracked corn bait, or strychnine with oat bait. Drop this around the base of the tree. Tramping snow hard about young trees will discourage mice if the ground beneath freezes hard.

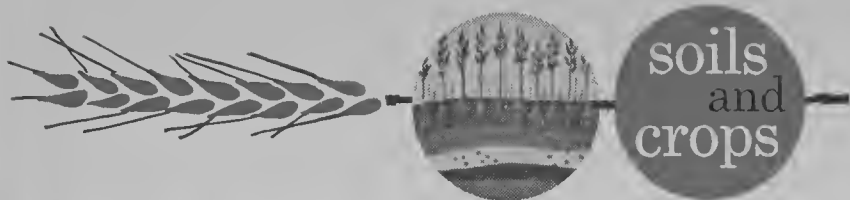
If trees are girdled, Prof. Kelly suggests immediate first aid. Coat the wound with an asphalt wound dressing or grafting compound.

If the damage is serious, save scions for bridge-grafting later, or secure tall 1-year apple whips to supply new roots for the tree. V

Chance for Small-Fruit Growers

THERE'S a market for crabapples and apple crabs, according to P. J. Peters, Manitoba Department of Agriculture horticulturist. He points out that retail outlets in the province must rely solely on more expensive out-of-province sources for their crabapples every fall.

Peters reckons that the small-fruit grower should devote 10 acres to crabapples and apple crabs, and with this acreage he will be in a position to negotiate with a retail or wholesale outlet in his general area. V



Moisture extraction unit in position beside the hay shed at the Anseeuw brothers' farm. Hay was being stacked with a very high moisture content. [Guide photos]

Crops Are Dried by Heat from Engine

Diesel unit with fan shoots dried air into stacks or bins, reduces moisture

LATE in August, hay was coming in from the fields green and wringing wet — it contained about 50 per cent moisture. But Joseph Anseeuw was bringing it in, anyway, to be dried in the hay shed by a unit consisting of a diesel engine and some ducts. Good quality hay is important to him and his brother, Andree, who farm about a section at Oak Bluff, Man. They have a dairy herd of 170, and milk 50 to 80 cows.

The drying system used by the Anseeuws is new to Canada, and it's quite simple. A 40 h.p. Lister air-cooled diesel, mounted on a trailer chassis, is fitted with an axial-flow fan. The fan draws in a large volume of air, which comes in contact with the heat from the engine. This dries the air sufficiently to enable it to reduce the moisture in hay, grain, and other crops to a safe storage level. The apparatus is called a moisture extraction unit.

An easy way to direct the flow of air into a stack of hay, as used on the Anseeuw farm, is to build tunnels of plywood mounted on a frame of lumber, with openings to allow the air to work its way up through the stack. Usually, two such tunnels are enough, with the stack built over them. An alternative, where the water table is low, is to dig a trench, about 8 ft. wide by 2 ft. deep, through the barn, cover it with some 2 by 4's and heavy-duty mesh, stack the bales over it, and blow the air into the trench.

Under exceptionally heavy moisture conditions at the Anseeuw farm, they were able to dry 5,600 bales in 12 days of almost con-

tinuous running, with bales stacked 24 layers high. This hay will be fed this winter and the results recorded.

In a test on another farm, two Lister units dried 15,000 bales in 12 days, including 5 days of rain, at an operating cost of 90 cents per ton. The unit itself costs about \$3,250 in Canada.

THE recommended method for hay is to start with a stack of 10 or 12 bales high for the first day, allowing the drying to get started, and then to place another 10 or 12 layers on top for the remaining period. It pays to have the maximum number of bales because there is little difference in cost between drying 2 tons or 30 tons.

The tunnels, which are attached to a duct from the engine, are easily constructed on the farm. Plywood



Joseph Anseeuw (l.) and Pete Herner of the Manitoba Dept. of Agriculture check moisture level. Bales in foreground have just come in from fields.

would probably have to be bought, but used lumber will do for the frame. Plans are available for rectangular tunnels, but any shape will do so long as the air is distributed through the stack.

Hay can be dried with the same unit connected to a forage box, or with ducts running up to a hay loft, whether hay is baled or chopped. The system is also adaptable to bin drying of grain, particularly where bins are equipped with perforated floors to admit air from the base.

The unit produces up to 132,000 b.t.u. of heat, sufficient to dry even in bad weather, but gentle enough not to damage the crop. The rise in air temperature does not exceed 25°F. Air volume is up to 38,000 cu. ft. per minute.

Bob Cowley, a crop drying consultant, points out that obviously it is better to get hay in during wet weather, rather than leave it to spoil in the field. This helps to preserve the carotene content, and earlier cutting usually means a higher protein



Fan housing and duct connected to the plywood air tunnel in the stack.

level, and therefore a saving on grain feeding. Losses from leaf shatter are also reduced.

Pete Herner, who supervised the test at the Anseeuw farm for the Manitoba Department of Agriculture, said that the drying system would tend to slow down the haying, but there would be delay in any case on account of wet weather, and it was important to have the hay in good condition.

Other tests have been made satisfactorily at Winnipeg with 35 tons

Science Now Shrinks Piles Without Pain or Discomfort

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Take a look at the WHAT'S NEW column, page 26. There is likely a new product you could use.

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of onions dried in 3 separate lots. An Ontario farmer is reported to be using the engine-drying system and



[Guide photo]

This simple framing is sufficient to take the weight of hay on the tunnel.

feeding straight hay to about 80 cows. He hopes to save \$1,500 a year by being able to replace grain with top quality hay.

IN comparisons made at the Drayton Experimental Husbandry Farm, England, it was found that barn-dried hay was of better quality than silage. The mean loss of dry matter was 26 per cent in the case of silage against 13.3 per cent loss in barn-dried hay. This meant an extra 5.3 cwt. per acre of dry matter in the barn-dried hay. Advantages were also apparent in the lower crude fiber content of the hay, and the higher digestibility of its dry matter. The result was that steers made 34 per cent higher liveweight gains per acre from barn-dried hay compared with silage.

Striking results were reported from Poland, where two Lister units were tested at the Institute for Land and Grassland Improvement, Biebrza. During a rainy September, they built one tunnel stack of 2,118 bales of hay in the field, and 691 bales of a green crop were tunnel-stacked under a roof.

In 143 hours, the moisture content of the field stack was reduced from 31.9 to 15.1 per cent. In 135 hours, the moisture content of the green bales was reduced from 41.9 to 13.4 per cent.

Loss of crude protein from the Lister-dried hay was 5.7 to 8.3 per cent, compared with 16.6 to 21.4 per cent loss for hay dried in the field. Carotene content after drying showed a ratio of 3.6 to 1 in favor of drying in the stack.—R.C. V

Use Lime —But Test First

IF you think your farm needs liming, have a soil test, advises Prof. T. J. Heeg of the Ontario Agricultural College. He points out that all Ontario soils do not need lime, and it is throwing money away to apply limestone when it is not required.

The amount of limestone to apply will depend on how acid the soil is,

its texture, and the organic matter—so rates can vary between 1 and 5 tons per acre. Apply limestone broadcast at any time before plowing. Leaving a broadcast application on the soil surface will not be effective, even after it is worked into the soil it needs about 2 years to give its maximum effect.

In Ontario, legume crops such as alfalfa and clovers respond more to liming than do small grains and corn. Because of the time-lag, if there is a rotation of corn, oats, and 2 years of hay, liming will be most effective in increasing hay yields if it is applied on sod which is to be turned down for corn. V

Release of Potash Is Slow

SOILS of most farms in Prince Edward Island contain at least 12 to 15 tons of native potash per acre within a few inches of the surface, and yet farmers had to apply 6,500 tons of fertilizer potash to their crops this year. This is a situation that the new soils laboratory at the Charlottetown Experimental Farm is working on.

The problem is that the breakdown of soil minerals only permits very slow release of potash to plants, and this applies in other Eastern

provinces besides P.E.I. The aim will be to make better use of the natural potash. Dr. D. C. MacKay points out that the small amounts of potash released naturally still represent a considerable saving in fertilizer costs. But the saving could be much greater.

Two points have been established. Other chemicals in the soil influence the amount of potash that becomes available, and another factor is soil management. The research is designed to find which practices will make more native potash available to crops. V

Real Need for Seed Tests

HAVE a reliable germination test made of all grain intended for seed in 1963, says W. G. Malaher of the Searle Grain Company. The reason for this is that adverse growing conditions in many areas in 1962, and delays in harvesting, early frost and inclement fall weather, resulted in varying amounts of damage to swathed grain and to many standing crops. There was also a greater amount of black-point damage in 1962 than for many years in the past.

Mr. Malaher points out that seed laboratories are well-equipped for germination tests because, among other things, they can break the dormancy of seed by pre-chilling—

something that is not possible in a simple germination test at home.

Don't leave the sending of samples until the last minute, when laboratories with limited capacity can be flooded with seed to be tested. There are signs that there will be a heavy load on seed testing equipment throughout this winter and spring. V

Early Cleaning of Seed Advised

BOOK next year's seed for cleaning and treating as soon as possible at local municipal seed cleaning plants, advises S. Goddard, Alberta's supervisor of special projects. They are doing a large volume of business, and farmers who want to avoid disappointment in the spring are, in many cases, having their seed processed in fall and early winter.

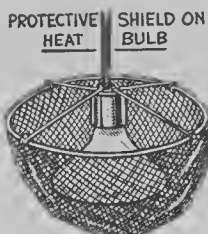
These plants are often able to do a better job of cleaning than can be done on the farm because they specialize. Goddard claims that grain which has been through the cleaning equipment is virtually free of weeds, and the seed is more uniform in size than is often the case with farm-cleaned grain.

Also, when seed has been treated with fungicide or insecticide at a municipal plant, Goddard reckons the farmer can be sure of uniform application. V



Guard for Glass

A defective heat lamp may break when it burns out. Those little fragments of glass are dangerous and could be picked up by livestock below and enter their stomachs. Also, the pieces of glass can be very hot and might ignite straw. A very simple glass catcher can be made from an old fly muzzle for horses. Remove the binding, which may be inflammable, and then fasten the muzzle to the light fixture with wire. This will catch glass fragments if the bulb should break, but lets heat through.—R.A.M., Alta. V



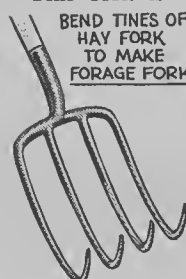
OLD FLY MUZZLE

Clean Stone

Try boiling your grindstone or whetstone for 10 or 15 minutes when it's dirtied by contact with greasy tools. The stone will become just like new again.—P.M.E., Alta. V

Forage Fork

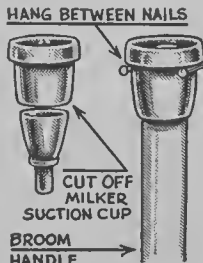
This fork is made of small rods bent to form hooks that will drag the fodder out of a forage box. It is really a straw fork with the tips bent. This is simple to do and I find it makes my forage handling very much easier than with the ordinary fork—M.McK., Sask. V



BEND TINES OF HAY FORK TO MAKE FORAGE FORK

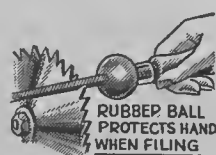
Broom Hanger

A good way to hang up a broom is to cut about 3 in. off the top of a worn-out cup from a milker, push it onto the broom handle, and then suspend it between two nails on the wall.—J.S.W., Sask. V



Guard for File

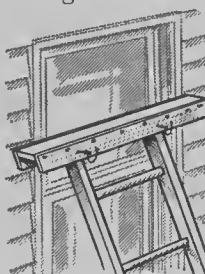
When sharpening or touching up a table-saw, a handy little safety device is made by drilling a 1/4" hole in a small sponge-rubber ball. Push the ball over the file and up to the handle, where it will protect the hand in case the file slips.—A.W., Alta. V



RUBBER BALL PROTECTS HAND WHEN FILING

Ladder Support

When doing odd jobs about the house, such as cleaning windows or fixing the eavestrough, there's a handy way to place the ladder exactly where needed, even where there's a window. The box construction (see sketch) gives rigid support so that the weight of the ladder does not deflect it onto the glass. Two snug-fitting pins also ensure that the ladder will not slip out of the support when the ladder is being raised or lowered. It is much safer to work directly in line with the ladder, using this support, rather than having to lean out to reach the work.—A.W.W., Alta. V



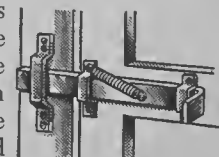
HANDY SUPPORT ENABLES USE OF LADDER OVER WINDOWS, ETC.

Cleans Soldering Iron

Mix 3/4 teaspoon of sal ammoniac in a pint of water. This makes a good cleaner by just dipping the tip of the soldering iron in the solution.—S.J., Sask. V

Spring Latch

Cattle cannot open a gate if the slide is held securely in place with a 10" spring. As you can see in the sketch, it is done very simply, with one end of the spring screwed onto the gate itself, and the other end to the slide of the latch.—P.M.E., Alta. V



SPRING HOLDS GATE LATCH IN PLACE

Want to Buy an Arc Welder?

What to look for when selecting equipment that is for farm use

WITH so much to choose from, it can become a little confusing when shopping for an alternating-current arc welder. However, there are some important points to watch for, and these have been summarized for farmers by Curtis E. Wold, welding instructor at the University of Manitoba.

Generally, he says, arc welders manufactured for the farm market are 180 amp., limited-input machines. They are designed, as the name implies, for service where a limited input of electrical energy is available, and should not draw over 37.5 amps. from the power line. If more than 37.5 amps. were drawn at full load, a larger transformer than the standard 3 KVA would be needed, and the cost would be higher.

Look for the amperage draw on the name plate of the welder, where you will also find the maximum open circuit voltage. Eight volts is the maximum allowed on a limited-input machine. Some electrodes, such as low hydrogen (E7018) used for welding high-carbon and alloy steels require a fairly high open circuit voltage, and a welder with less than 65 volts o.c.v. is not likely to run this type of electrode properly.

Curtis Wold says there are two main ways of adjusting amperage on alternating-current welders. First, in the plug-in type, the amperage is taken from taps at various values ranging from 20 amps. to 180 amps. The amperage settings available are limited by the number of taps. So a machine with 24 heat settings would give the operator a greater selection of welding heats than a machine with only 15. This is a fairly important factor to consider when choosing between tap-type machines.

Secondly, the continuous-amperage control types provide any heat from 20 amps. to 180 amps. by turning a dial or crank. Welders of this type make it possible for the operator to select the exact heat he wants.

Alternating-current arc welders are transformers and, as such, are made up mainly of soft iron-core material and copper wire. When selecting a welder, you may note the net weight, as this will give you an indication of the amount of material used in the machine. The size of the case has little to do with the weight of the welder.

Another factor to consider is what accessories come with the welder. For example, if one welder has a set of welding cables that are 10 and

15 feet long, and another has cables 20 and 25 feet long, you would have to consider the advantages of the longer cables. The quality of the ground clamp, electrode holder,

head shield, and arc torch should also be carefully examined.

All alternating-current transformer welders will perform. But, says Curtis Wold, the problem in selection is that of obtaining the best value for your money. V

Spray on Rustproofing

IT pays to rustproof equipment that is being stored, says Dr. W. K. Bilanski of the engineering department at O.A.C. First of all, remove all the mud, grass, and other dirt. Then touch up the paint wherever necessary, and spray each part likely to be affected by rust with a light, waxy coating of one of the modern rust-preventives. Finally,

make sure that the implement is stored in a weatherproof shelter that is dry and well ventilated.

A film that can be readily applied with a fly spray, hand gun, or low-pressure airline gun, will keep rust from forming even while the machine has to be outside for long periods. Also, when you apply rust-preventive over non-flaky, thin coats of rust, it penetrates and loosens the rust, making the rust easier to remove as well as preventing further rusting.

Keep a spray gun, or similar device, always full of rust-preventive and in a convenient place. You can then give frequent applications to any areas on the implement where the protective film is broken through use or weathering. V

comes winter... GO STANFIELD'S!



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FARM BUILDINGS

Easy Way to Handle Concrete

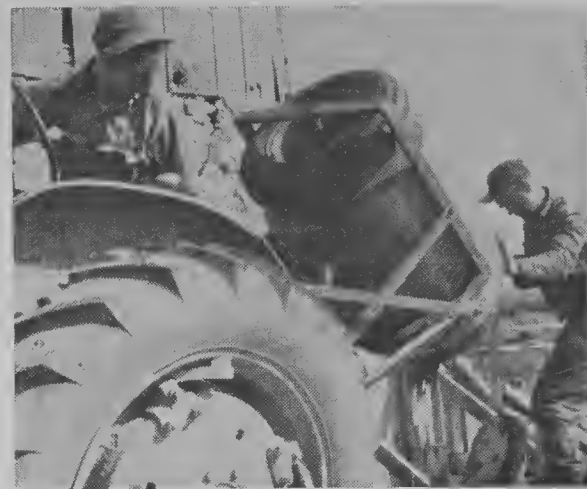


Ron Ackert dumping gravel and cement from front-end loader into hopper. [Guide photos]

HARVEY ACKERT and his two sons, Clarence and Ron, used plenty of ingenuity in building their 500-steer feedlot last spring. They devised a system by which they could mix and pour the concrete using virtually no hand labor.

The mixer they purchased, which holds about 70 shovelfuls of material, fitted onto the back of their tractor. Once they were underway, they were pouring a batch every 3 minutes. The Ackerts used a front-end loader to pick up gravel, then dumped the

Clarence Ackert is seen here as he is guiding a batch of the concrete mixture into position.



cement on top of each scoopful. This was then dumped into a home-made hopper, set high enough on an angle-iron framework (they built this themselves out of an old windmill) that it would empty directly into the mixer. Set on the scaffolding too, beside the hopper, was a barrel connected to running water. A transparent pipe attached to the side of the barrel, revealed the water level there, and it was marked to show how much water to put into each batch.—D.R.B. V

Nailing the Sub-Floor

IF you're putting in a sub-floor, these nailing hints published by the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation can help you:

Plywood sub-flooring at least 1/2" thick is applied lengthwise across

the joists and nailed down with 2 1/4" nails, spaced 6" apart along the edges and 12" apart along intermediate joists. A space of 1/8" should be allowed between edges of plywood sheets.

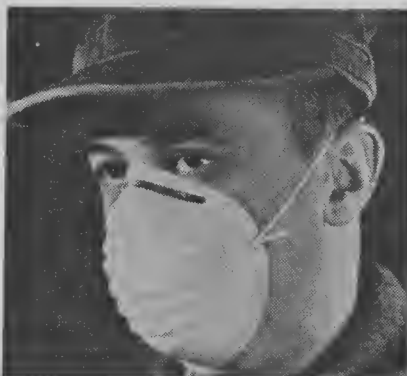
If finish flooring other than wood is to be used, panel edges between joists are supported by 2" by 4" crosspieces toe-nailed to the joists with 2 1/2" nails.

Lumber sub-flooring—tongue-and-groove, shiplap, or square-edge board not less than 3/4" thick and not more than 8" wide—is nailed to the floor frame with 2 1/2" nails. Boards 6" and less should have at least 2 nails per bearing, and boards wider than 6" need 3 nails per bearing. Boards are laid diagonally with ends meeting over and parallel to joists, or they can be laid at right-angles in the same manner. V

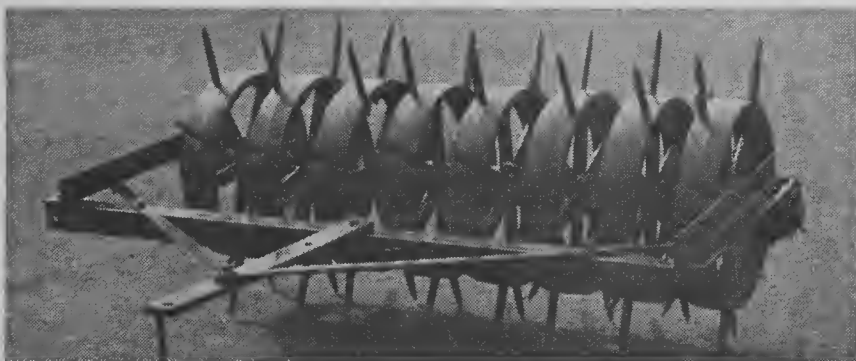


Filter Mask

Designed for protection against grain dust, non-toxic insect sprays, bedding and feather dust, pollen, and paint spray, this is a disposable mask of gauze-like material. It is strong and light, and there is no heat "build-up" inside. Features are a pliable metal nose-piece and elastic headband. It can be reused at least half a dozen times. (Oxboro Heath Company.) (400) V

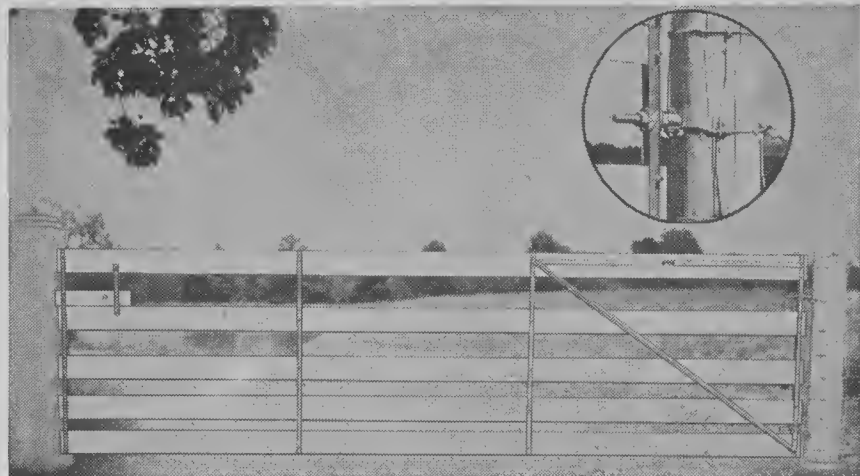


Pasture Aerator



The teeth of this unit punch holes well into pastures or hayfields, allowing air, fertilizer, moisture, etc., free access to the subsoil. It is in 4 sections, each weighing 400 lb. (Calgary Farm Machinery Ltd.) (401) V

Gate Kit



This kit can be used for gates 48 in. high, and 6 to 16 ft. long, with native or mill lumber up to 1 1/4 in. thick. Hardware is plated, special angle-head bolts allow air movement and drainage. (Danuser Machine Co.) (402) V

Light Control

This is a photoelectric control which turns lighting on when daylight fades, and turns it off automatically at dawn. The unit is not affected by temperature; the photocell is hermetically sealed and housed in translucent plastic. The "eye" may face in any direction. A built-in time delay prevents flutter or unwanted operation due to cloud movements or flashes of lightning. (Dominion Electric Mfg. Co.)

(403) V



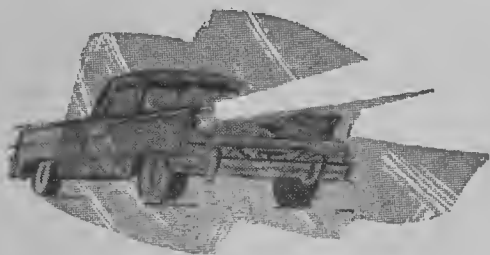
For further information about any item mentioned in "What's New," write to WHAT'S NEW, The Country Guide, 1760 Ellice Ave., Winnipeg 21, Man. Please quote the key number that is shown at the end of each item.



At Christmas home is where the heart is

by **CLAIRE JONES**

Illustrated by **MANLY GELLER**



LUCY watched from the window of the big, old farmhouse as the lights of the pickup vanished into the December gloom. She turned away. Tears of frustration and self-pity blurred her eyes and ran down her cheeks.

The hot, angry words she had hurled at Dan seemed to linger in the room. They hadn't really quarreled. Dan never answered back, she thought resentfully. There might have been some satisfaction in a really good quarrel. But Dan had been patient as he always was.

"I have to go, Lucy. The cow is one of Mr. Lucas's most valuable animals. I'm a veterinarian, honey. You'd expect a doctor to go where he's needed. It's the same principle."

"You may think it is," she had retorted. "But I don't see how you can leave your wife alone

on Christmas Eve, after everything else that's gone wrong, to take care of a sick cow!"

"I'm sorry, honey." His tone had stayed gentle. "Why don't you call the Warrens, and go to the Christmas pageant in town with them? It would be good for you to get out."

"I don't want to go to the Christmas pageant." She had been close to tears then. "I want to go home. We'd planned to, and we could, if you didn't have this terrible farm, and all those cows that need someone to look after them, and if you didn't have to go on errands of mercy to some . . . some animal!"

Dan had only said, infuriatingly, "It isn't good for you to get so worked up, in your condition. You know I'm sorry we had to change our Christmas plans, but it couldn't be helped." His brown eyes held concern. "I love you, Lucy."

But she had turned away from the appeal. "You'd better go," she said bitterly. "That cow will be wondering what's kept you. Her condition is surely more important than mine."

At the door, he had said quietly, "I'm sorry you're so unhappy here, Lucy. You knew about the farm when we were married. You knew what I was planning to do." And, when she hadn't answered, he had sighed and said, "Well, I'll be back as soon as I can." And the door had closed behind him.

SHE moved restlessly about the cheerless room. He was right. She had known about the farm that had been his father's. She had known that he was planning to come back here and run the farm along with a veterinary practice after his graduation. But she had thought she'd be able to talk him out of it.

They had met during her senior year at university. Dan was in his next-to-last year of graduate school. They had fallen in love very quickly. There had been not the slightest doubt in Lucy's mind that he was the one she wanted to spend her life with. What had there been about him? He'd been different from the other boys she'd known. More serious, gentler, kinder. She had thought him sensitive and understanding. She had been proud of his dark, good looks, and stirred by his quiet delight in her.

They were married during the summer after Lucy's graduation, a beautiful wedding in the church in which she had grown up. They had spent a wonderfully happy year in a little apartment close to the university, just an hour from her parents' home.

(Please turn to next page)

Lucy had refused to take seriously Dan's talk of the farm, and his plans to practise in the country. After all, wasn't there a tremendous demand for veterinarians in the city? Dan had had several good offers just before his graduation. One had been a splendid opening at the City Animal Hospital, just a few short blocks from where her family lived. She had been sure he would take it.

"But, Dan, city animals need doctors, too. Why can't we stay here?"

"I know they do, honey. And that's fine for some people. But I just can't see myself taking care of pussy cats and lap dogs. I know where I belong."

"But I don't belong there, Dan," she had cried. But in this, Dan had been unyielding, and Lucy's pleas, and the not-too-subtle pressures her mother and father had exerted, had been to no avail.

SO they had come to the farm where Dan had spent his boyhood. The first summer hadn't been too bad. The weather had been delightful. There had been the excitement of unpacking all the wedding gifts there hadn't been room for in the small apartment. She made frequent trips for extended visits with her family. And, in spite of her dissatisfaction, she was very much in love with Dan.

Winter had been different. She had always lived in the city, and she was oddly vulnerable and alien in this cold, windswept country. People who had known Dan since his boyhood were friendly and welcoming, but they were as busy as Dan was, and at the occasional social function she attended, Lucy felt little in common with them. She had made no real effort to make friends.

They had spent last Christmas with her family, and Lucy had stayed on for several weeks.

When she had discovered, in the spring, that she was pregnant, she had found the isolation and strangeness of her new life even harder to accept. More than ever she missed her old life, her mother, the circle of friends that had kept her days filled with phone calls, and luncheons, parties and meetings.

She had been adamant about one thing. The baby was not to be born in the neat little brick hospital in the neighboring town.

"I don't care what a good reputation the hospital has. My baby is going to be born in the city. I just couldn't bear to be here, away from everything. I couldn't." Reluctantly, Dan had agreed. He would come when the baby was born. "But, oh, I'll miss you, honey," he had said wistfully. And Lucy, making excited plans for the coming holiday, had felt a stab of shame.

They had planned to leave yesterday, and then, Ted Johnson, Dan's helper who was to have looked after the farm for them, had gone to the hospital with an attack of appendicitis. Dan had finally found someone to come in his place, but the man wasn't available until the day after Christmas. They were planning to leave then, but it would be too late for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day festivities that Lucy had looked forward to so eagerly.

"It will be the first Christmas I've ever been away from home," Lucy had said tearfully. There was a quick flash of hurt in Dan's eyes. He smoothed her hair and said gently, "You are at home, darling."

Lucy looked about the big, dimly lighted room. Home! It had never felt like home to her. And on this Christmas Eve, it seemed less her home than ever.

THERE was no sign of Christmas anywhere about the house, except the stack of Christmas cards on the coffee table. She hadn't bothered to decorate or to put up a tree. For her, the Christmas celebration was to have begun when she arrived at her family's home.

The room was growing chilly. The temperature had been dropping all day, and with the coming of night it was even colder. The wind, with no neighboring houses to stop it, swept around the corners of the old house, crept in through the cracks and round the windows. It was always hard to keep it warm enough in the winter, even with a roaring fire in the fireplace to reinforce the efforts of the big, old stove in the corner.

Lucy moved closer to the fire which was dying, and gave it a disconsolate poke. The old clock in the hall chimed out a dispassionate six notes. Her family would be gathering around the supper table now for the traditional oyster stew and apple pudding. Her brother and his family would be there, the two small boys already wild with anticipation. A huge tree would sparkle in the corner. There would be laughter and excitement. Friends dropping in with last minute packages. The telephone ringing. Carols spilling out of the big record player.

After supper, they'd all pile into the car and drive through the city streets to see the brightly decorated houses, the tinsel and color of the downtown district.

Then there would be the hanging of stockings in order of age, and the midnight Christmas Eve service, the church serenely beautiful with its fragrant green trees and its flickering candles. And, afterwards, the last cup of cocoa around the fire with all the magic of Christmas Day still ahead.

The lump in Lucy's throat assumed painful proportions. If only

she and Dan could have been there tonight! She felt a sudden overwhelming resentment against the farm, even against Dan whose fault it was that they were living here.

The fire blazed suddenly, and at the same moment an idea blazed in Lucy's mind. She'd go home! Tonight. This very minute. As soon as she could load the car.

She was nearly packed. She had been for days. The gifts were in a carton, ready to go. She could get there in five hours or so. She would be there as the others were coming home from church. There would be time for laughter and good talk, and warmth and fellowship. And there would be the whole long day tomorrow.

She would leave a note for Dan. He could come the day after Christmas as they had both planned to do. He could drive the pickup. A little icy finger of uneasiness poked at the excited planning. Dan would be alone tonight, and tomorrow, and tomorrow night. Alone for Christmas Eve. And for Christmas. But, suppose he was? He'd probably spend most of his time with that cow, anyway. And he loved the farm. And his friends were all here.

She flew about hurriedly, packing the few things not already in the suitcase. She scribbled a note of explanation to Dan, trying not to picture his eyes as he read it. She carried her bag, and the two suitcases filled with baby things to the car, panting with the unaccustomed exertion.

THE night was cloudless, the sky vast and midnight blue with a bright sprinkling of stars. It was even colder than she had imagined. The wind was biting, and she was shivering under her heavy sweater as she went in for the carton of gifts. Her gift to Dan was on the top. She hesitated briefly, as she imagined him opening the present alone on Christmas morning. She put it back in the box with the others. He could open it when he came.

She put on her heaviest coat, a wool scarf about her head, her fur-lined driving gloves. Her heart was beating heavily with excitement. She didn't look back as she coaxed the cold, protesting car down the driveway and headed down the highway toward home.

The highway was deserted, the fields on either side of the road forbiddingly empty in the frosty starlight. She passed several farmhouses, all dark. They must have all gone into town to the Christmas pageant, she thought.

And when she drove into the small town, past the little community church, the cars parked around it indicated this was true. The rest of the town was quiet, and dark. No last minute hurry and bustle here. There was an occasional wreath in a window, tree lights peeked through the gloom as she drove on through the town.

These were Dan's friends, his people. Would she ever think of them as hers? She couldn't imagine it. She stopped thinking about them, her thoughts straining ahead down the bleak highway to the anticipated warmth of the welcome awaiting her at home.

She turned the heater higher. It was still cold in the car, and the wind rushing by outside the window seemed to find its way even into the haven of the front seat.

She was about six or seven miles on the other side of the town when it happened. The car began to slow down inexplicably, the engine coughed and sputtered, and she instinctively pulled over to the shoulder.

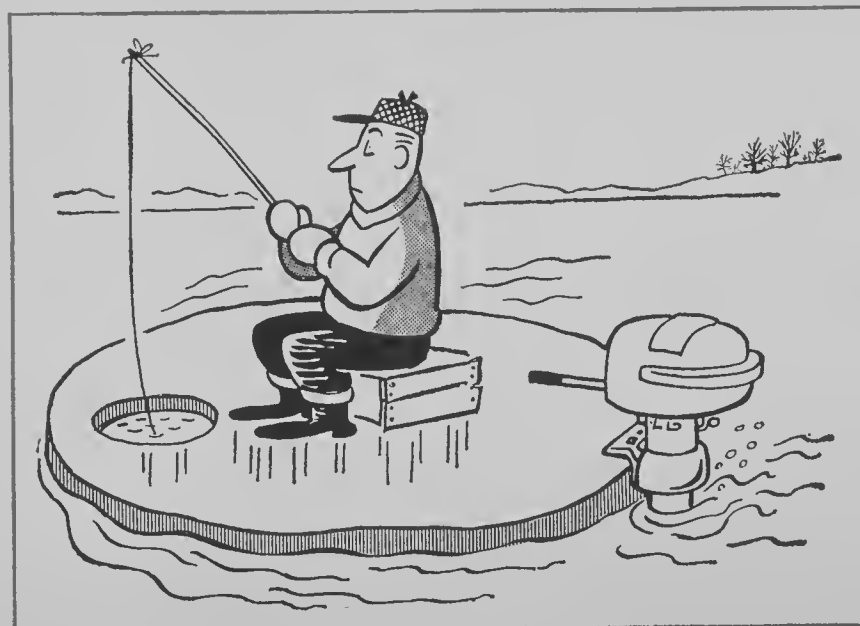
WHAT was wrong? The car came to a full stop. She tried the starter, and then sickening awareness of what had happened swept over her. When she had driven into town yesterday for groceries she hadn't thought they'd need, angry and disappointed over the postponement of their trip, Dan had called after her, "Be sure to get some gas, honey. We're nearly out."

She hadn't thought of it again until this minute. She stared at the gasoline gauge. Empty. Completely empty. Why hadn't she looked at it?

It was already growing cold in the car. She huddled in her coat, miserable and furious at herself. She couldn't just sit here. The Lambert farm must be up the road a little. She didn't remember having passed it. She would have to walk up to the farm and ask Mr. Lambert for help. If he had some extra gasoline, she would buy it from him and go on. If he didn't, well, there would be nothing to do but ask him to take her back to the farm, or call Dan at the Lucas's and have him come for her. Even if she got the gasoline, the delay would mean that she would get home after everyone was asleep. And, if she didn't, she'd be back at the farm, her plan abandoned. She knew that Dan would never agree to her driving by herself so far at night. Tears of vexation smarted in her eyes.

She got out of the car, stiff and awkward with her cumbersome weight, and started down the highway. The wind was increasing. It stung her eyes, caught at her breath, pushed itself against her to make the walking even harder. She shivered inside her heavy coat, but she made herself plod on, each step more difficult than the one before.

She saw the dark bulk of the Lambert house long before her



weary feet had brought her to it. There was a dim light in the front hall, but the rest of the house was in darkness. She wouldn't let herself believe that they were not at home. She pressed the doorbell insistently. Mrs. Lambert, one of the boys, somebody had to be at home. They had to be.

But she could hear the tinkle of the doorbell sounding through the house with the special emptiness of nobody-at-home echoing in the stillness.

She tried the door. It was locked. It would never be locked unless they were all away. She leaned against the door frame, suddenly, desperately tired. Now what could she do?

She was so cold. So tired. The walk back to the car seemed an impossible distance. And it would be so cold in the car.

She stood there, undecided, fighting back tears. And, then, she drew in her breath sharply. A strange little pain had struck her, a tentative, probing pain that started in her back and sent delicate fingers of pain through her. She was suddenly icy, a cold not from the wind and the chill of the night.

"No," she cried out, and was surprised to hear her voice, shrill in the icy stillness. Not now. It's too soon. Not for three or four weeks. Oh, God, not now!

She stood transfixed by panic, hoping against hope the pain would not come again. She had walked a long way, she was tired, she was frightened. The pain might be because of these things. Only because of these things. It might not come again.

She stood frozen, afraid to move, almost afraid to breathe, lest the pain come again. When it did come, it was sharper than the one before. Unmistakable. She began to whimper, softly. What should she do?

TO go and sit in an empty car beside a deserted highway was unthinkable. Perhaps she could get into the Lambert's house somehow, call Dan, hear the reassurance of his quiet, strong voice. Dan! Dan! Again her voice was drowned in the empty quietness of the vast night.

She stumbled to the back door. Like the front, it was securely locked. She circled the house, desperately looking for an entrance. But there were storm windows on all the windows, impossible for her to open.

At last she stood helpless on the front porch again. She swallowed the panic that continued to rise in her throat. She must think calmly now. She must act wisely.

The pain hadn't come again. Perhaps it wouldn't. Wasn't there something called "false labor"? Maybe this was it.

The Lamberts hadn't gone far, she was sure. They were as tied to their farm as Dan was, and Mr. Lambert had no help except the boys. They had gone to the Christmas pageant, like everyone else. They would be home soon. They must be home soon.

But she couldn't wait here. The

wind sweeping across the porch was bitter. Her teeth were chattering from the cold.

The barn. She would go into the barn! It would be sheltered there. She would be out of the wind. She could watch the house for the first sign of the Lamberts' headlights.

She stumbled across the yard to the dark building that was the barn. She was nearly there when the pain hit again. I must be calm, she told herself against the throbbing beat of her heart. It may mean nothing.

She reached the barn, and pulled the heavy door open, her breath coming quickly, and stepped into the gray darkness. She stood for a second just inside while her eyes adjusted to the changed light. The good smell of hay mixed with the earthy smell of the animals within struck her nostrils.

It was warmer here, and gradually she became aware of starlight from the window on the other side of the barn. She could see the cows now, in their stanchions, regarding her placidly, their breathing, and the sound of their feet as they moved and shifted about, making her feel for the moment absurdly less alone.

She groped her way over to the wall, found a bale of hay, and sank down wearily. She hadn't realized how exhausted she was.

She had lost all sense of time, and it was too dark to see her little watch. Eight? Eight-thirty? What time could she possibly expect the Lamberts to come home?

She had heard the Christmas program discussed. There was to be a play, carol singing, Santa Claus with gifts for the children, refreshments and fellowship. It might last a long time. Until nine? Maybe even nine-thirty, or ten. These get-togethers were infrequent. They usually made the most of them. How long would she have to wait? The pain hit again, and she cringed under it. How long could she wait?

Christmas Eve, she thought wildly. Christmas Eve in a barn! Again she had spoken aloud, and the words seemed to echo in the lofty dimness. In a barn! In a barn!

ALL at once, unbidden, other words came into her mind, familiar words but suddenly alive and vibrant with meaning. "And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

She sat very still, her pain and fright forgotten in a moment of wonder. For that first Christmas had been in a barn. Not just like this one, of course. But the scent of the hay must have been the same, the patient acceptance of the animals the same, the stars peering in through the window very much the same.

How often she had read these words, heard them spoken, seen them portrayed, but how little they had meant. How little she had understood them.

She had never guessed before how Mary must have felt on that

star-bright night. Her long journey, encumbered and weary. The disappointment of doors locked against her. The pain, the weariness, the cold, the loneliness. For she was away from home, among strangers, alone.

But, no. Mary had not been alone. Joseph had been with her. Of course, there had been God's presence, and the holy angels of God, but it had been Joseph's hand she had clung to, Joseph's strength which had guided her feet into the little manger, the sense of Joseph's nearness that had made the agony bearable, had helped to push away the strangeness and the loneliness and the fear.

Slow tears welled in her eyes, and began to stream down her face. Not tears of fright, or frustration, but tears of regret and sorrow, that she

was alone, without Dan. Without her husband.

"For this cause shall a man leave father and mother and shall cleave to his wife, and the twain shall be one flesh." These words joined the others in her mind.

Oh, Dan, Dan, she thought. She seemed to hear his steady voice in the darkness, "You are home, darling." And she had been, but she had been too stupid and too selfish to know it.

THE pain, growing more and more familiar, stabbed her again, and she lay back against the fragrant hay. It had been a long journey to this moment and this place. If only she hadn't tried to make it alone. "And Joseph also went up from Galilee . . . to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with



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child." Mary and Joseph. And it should have been Lucy and Dan, she thought sadly, with no sense of having been blasphemous. If she was alone now, whatever she had to face in the moments and the hours ahead, it was her fault, and hers alone.

She lay back and stared at the starlit window, and when the pain came again she bit her lip, and fought back her sobs, and waited.

And then, minutes later, an hour . . . there was the sound of tires skidding to a stop in the driveway, a car door closing. Thank God, the Lamberts

were back. She could get in the house, call Dan, at least hear his voice. His wonderful, beloved voice.

But, she was hearing it. Or was she imagining it? "Lucy, Lucy, are you here?" The voice edged with panic, with fear for her?

She got up clumsily on legs that trembled beneath her. She stumbled to the door. "Dan, Dan," she cried. "Here, here in the barn."

And then he was beside her, his arms around her, his lips against her hair. "Lucy, I've been out of my mind with worry. Whatever possessed you to try such a thing. I got your note. I started out after you. I never knew that pickup could travel so fast. And when I saw the car by the side of the road. . . ." He felt her stiffen. "What is it, darling?"

"It's the baby, Dan." She was amazed at the steadiness of her voice. "We'll have to go to the hospital. Right now."

"Oh, Lucy!" He picked her up in his arms, then, and she could feel his trembling. "I'm sorry, Lucy. I know that you wanted to be at home when this happened."

"Oh, Dan," she said, "I am at home." She knew as she said them that the words were forever true.

She snuggled against him as he hurried across the yard to the pickup. She looked at the stars in the vast sky above them. One was, it was definitely brighter than all the others. "Christmas Eve," she said softly. "A wonderful night to be born."

She felt suddenly wise and strong, unafraid and happy.

Let's Think It Over

by THE VERY REV. M. L. GOODMAN



How about the Man?

"Unto us a son is born, unto us a child is given"—these are the words of the prophet, Isaiah, as he looks out of the darkness of troubled times toward the coming of the Light. His words are familiar words and we have taken them to our hearts. Every one of us has a picture of the child and the manger at Bethlehem; but this may be our only idea of Christmas—a baby in a manger.

There is more than—"Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." These words complete the verse from Isaiah—"the government shall be upon His shoulder and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

This is something else again! THIS may make Christmas too big for us. We can accommodate the Baby, but how about the Man?

There was no room for the Baby in the inn at Bethlehem. This didn't matter much, for there was the stable. What really counted happened later when the Baby became a man—and was "despised and rejected of men."

You and I would never keep the Baby out. We wouldn't be guilty of closing our doors to Him, for we are sentimental about babies. Yes, it is true—we would never keep the Baby out; but how about the Man? Have we let the Man in? Have we admitted Him—the Wonderful, the Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace?

Unless we acknowledge the Man, and worship Him, the door is actually closed to the Baby as well, and our Christmas is only sentiment.

Suggested Scripture: Isaiah IX, 2-7 and St. John's Gospel I, 1-14.

Too Much Turkey?

As young men in training for the ministry we were sometimes sent out to work with older men during the summer holidays. I had the good fortune to be given this opportunity. My work lay in a tourist area, a very pleasant circumstance. However, I found that in the summer months the local people were fully occupied with the tourist business which provided their living. While most of them came to church, there was little opportunity to visit with them during those busy days.

So I asked if I might go back at Christmas time. This was arranged and I have been thankful ever since for that experience. There was only one difficulty—in the flood of kindness, I confused my invitations and ended up eating three turkey dinners in one particular day!

That was too much turkey even for a young man with a good appetite!

There may be "too much turkey" about many of our Christmas celebrations—too much emphasis on eating—and drinking—too much concern about buying, wrapping, posting, and so on.

Each must judge for himself. These things have their place, but with a little planning and a sense of proportion, we can always put Christ first IF WE WILL, and keep Him first as the reason for our Christmas.

Suggested Scripture: St. John XV, 1-19.

1963--Who Walks with You?

Years ago, at Christmas time, I was visiting friends in the Muskoka country of Ontario. This is the rugged land of the ancient "Canadian Shield"—with a multitude of great rocky hills and many lakes. For a long time it has been a famous place for summer tourists. In the winter it is a quiet land, locked in the grip of the frost and appareled with the new beauty of snow. The restless waters that earlier resounded with the roar of outboard motors lie still and provide new pathways—short cuts, not possible in summer.

One night of my visit, I stayed late with friends on the opposite side of the lake to the place where I was to sleep. The only way "home" was a path down and across the bay and through the woods on the other side. Down the bay was a narrow spot where you had to watch out for thin ice and air holes. At that point, you could sometimes hear the menacing gurgle of moving water. It was all right if you knew your way, but I had not been there before. It was a dark night. All this was in my mind as I pulled on my parka and laced my boots. Then the young man of the house spoke up and said, "I'll go with you past the towers and over to the other side."

"Past the narrows and over to the other side!"—This made all the difference, for he knew the way.

You have entered on a journey, child, and none, save God, can know How rough or long or dangerous, is the way you have to go. But this you know—that Christ himself, is ever at your side, All through the day until you reach the goal at eventide.

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN.

Suggested Scripture: Psalm XXIII and St. John X, 1-14.

MEN PAST 40

Troubled with GETTING UP NIGHTS
Pains in BACK, HIPS, LEGS
Tiredness, LOSS OF VIGOR

If you are a victim of these symptoms then your troubles may be traced to Glandular Inflammation. Glandular Inflammation is a constitutional disease and medicines that give merely temporary relief cannot be expected to remove the causes of your troubles.

Neglect of Glandular Inflammation often leads to premature old age, and incurable conditions. The past year, men from 1,000 communities have been successfully treated here at Excelsior Springs. They have found soothing relief and a new outlook on life.

The Excelsior Medical Clinic, devoted to the treatment of diseases peculiar to older men by NON-SURGICAL Methods has a New FREE BOOK that tells how these troubles may be corrected by proven Non-Surgical treatments. This book may prove of utmost importance to you.

Excelsior Medical Clinic, Dept. B8755,
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ONLY \$3.98



Over 2 Feet Long
6 Rooms
Fully Electric
Real Grass Front Lawn

Give your little princess a thrill she'll never forget with the charmingly modern house that actually lights up. This gorgeous 24" x 12" x 12" split-level beauty will bring a heartwarming glow of excitement from any youngster. How proud she'll be as mistress over the living room, dining room, 2 bedrooms, reception room, kitchen and garage—all adorably decorated and completely furnished with tables, chairs, beds and all modern conveniences. And, yes, your magic Doll House is actually provided with electric lights that are completely safe and provide a comforting glow in her room at night. This sensational new house even has a beautiful grass lawn that actually grows on our magic soil in only 4 days—she'll thank you every time she feeds her family, cleans house, tends the lawn, switches the lights on and off, etc. And, her mama and papa dolls, and three kiddies all spruced up and fully dressed will keep her busy for hours. Yes, you'll be repaid a thousand times over by the warmth of your child's delight at the wonderful home that we're so proud to offer. And, most wonderful of all is the price—yes, because of the special material used and mass production techniques, the complete price for this modern 6 room split-level house, with easy assembly instructions, a growing lawn, 30 pieces of furniture, a five piece Doll Family, and a safe lighting system, is only \$3.98 plus 45¢ shipping charges! So don't delay! Order now. Batteries not included.

Here Is All Your Youngster Receives:
• Modern Split-Level House
• Complete Doll Family
• 6 Big Rooms Consisting Of Living Room, Dining Room, 2 Bedrooms, Recreation Room, Kitchen, Garage, All Fully Furnished with 30 Pieces of Lovely Furniture
• Battery Operated Lighting System
• Full Grass Lawn That Actually Grows

10 Day Free Trial

Money Back Guarantee

New York Imports, Dept. DH907
Downsview, Ont.

Please rush me the modern 6 room Split-Level Doll House and Doll Family with lights and growing lawn. If not thrillingly delighted I may return it after 10 days free trial for prompt refund of purchase price.

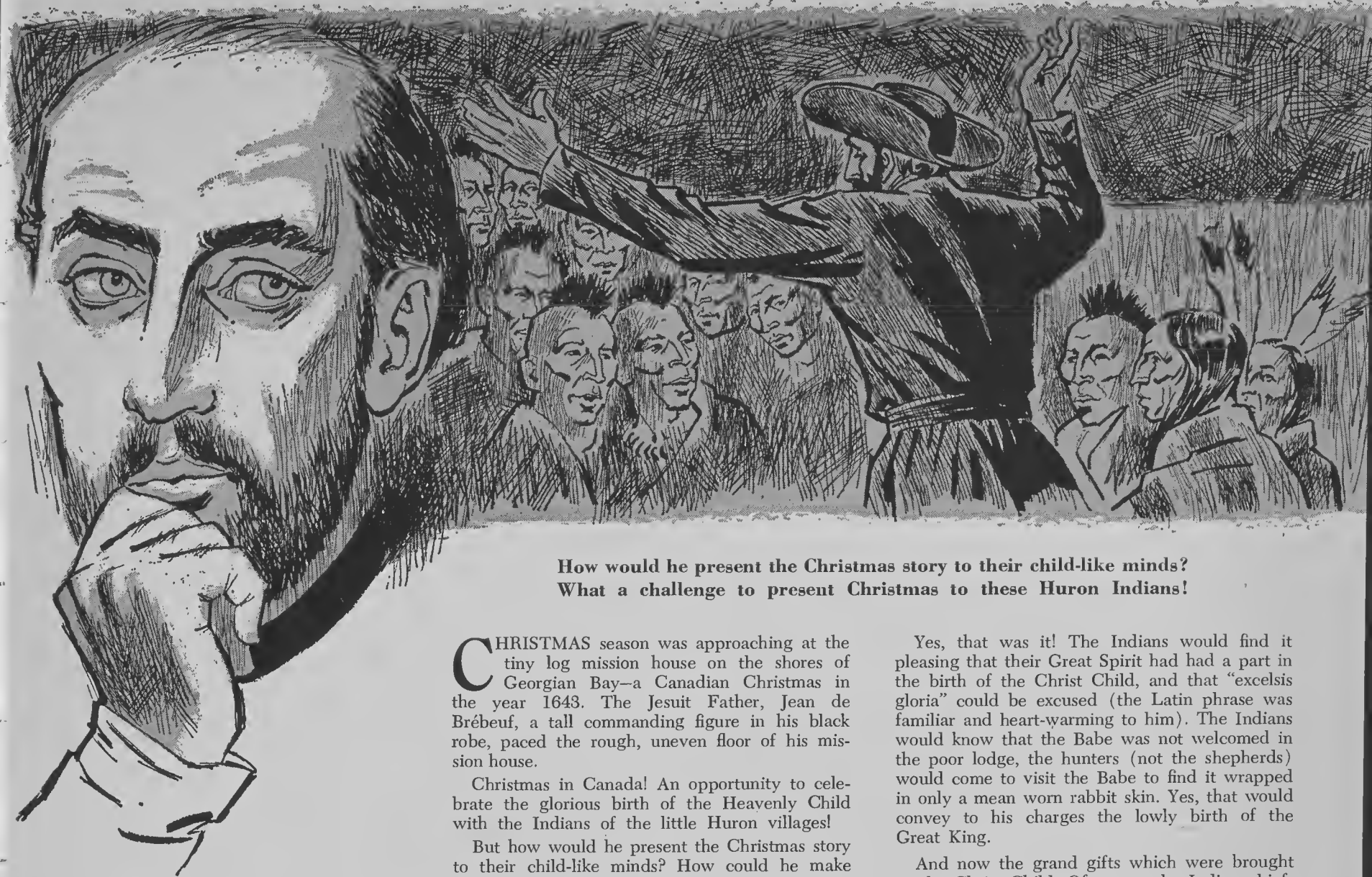
☐ I enclose \$3.98 plus 45¢ shipping charges.

☐ Send C.O.D., I will pay postman on delivery plus C.O.D. and shipping charges.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

If your youngster is not happier and more thrilled than she's ever been before, simply return the Magic Doll House for full refund of your purchase price.



How would he present the Christmas story to their child-like minds?
What a challenge to present Christmas to these Huron Indians!

CHRISTMAS season was approaching at the tiny log mission house on the shores of Georgian Bay—a Canadian Christmas in the year 1643. The Jesuit Father, Jean de Brébeuf, a tall commanding figure in his black robe, paced the rough, uneven floor of his mission house.

Christmas in Canada! An opportunity to celebrate the glorious birth of the Heavenly Child with the Indians of the little Huron villages!

But how would he present the Christmas story to their child-like minds? How could he make them realize the full significance of this tremendous event? What a challenge to present Christmas to these Huron Indians!

What had appealed most to him as a boy at Christmas time? Mentally he bridged the years—what of that far-off carefree time had remained within him?

Ah, yes, the carols, the joyous carols, the music, the candles in the dimly lit chapel, the carols in his father's castle with his mother and sister. Now the Father's stride quickened as he hummed snatches of the old familiar carols: "The first Nowell the angels did say—In Bethlehem, in Jewry, this blessed Babe was born—The shepherds at those tidings left their flocks a-feeding"—but that would not do for his Indian charges! How could they conceive of anyone herding sheep in this cold, bleak land?

No, this was impossible! A Christmas carol from the Old Land would not do for these children, they must have their own Christmas carol with a setting and meaning suited to this great land, and he must write it. Slowly pacing the floor the words took shape for him as the Old World carol was transposed for the New:

*'Twas in the moon of wintertime
When all the birds had fled,
That mighty Gitchi Manitou
Sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim,
And wandering hunters heard the hymn.*

*Jesus your King is born
Jesus is born,
In excelsis gloria!*

*Within a lodge of broken bark
The tender Babe was found,
A ragged robe of rabbit skin
Enwrapped His beauty round
But as the hunter braves drew nigh,
The angel-song ran loud and high.*

Yes, that was it! The Indians would find it pleasing that their Great Spirit had had a part in the birth of the Christ Child, and that "excelsis gloria" could be excused (the Latin phrase was familiar and heart-warming to him). The Indians would know that the Babe was not welcomed in the poor lodge, the hunters (not the shepherds) would come to visit the Babe to find it wrapped in only a mean worn rabbit skin. Yes, that would convey to his charges the lowly birth of the Great King.

And now the grand gifts which were brought to the Christ Child. Of course the Indian chiefs would be the logical ones to bring gifts, for were they not the wise men of the tribe? What gifts would they bring? Their furs, their very finest! Brébeuf continued:

*The earliest moon of wintertime
Is not so round and fair,
As was the ring of glory on
The helpless Infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt
With gifts of fox and beaver pelt.*

There was the picture of the birth of the Great King for these Canadians. He had bridged the gap, he had compromised between the old and new to interpret the birth of Jesus. Now for the triumphant rousing conclusion, the realization of what this event was to mean to the peoples of the world.

Brébeuf pondered some time as he resumed his pacing up and down the cold, dreary cabin, the pattern of his walk measured and mechanical.

Then faint and far-off, a sound was born and carried on the wind, slowly gaining in volume until it reached that cheerless mission house on the shores of Georgian Bay. Father Brébeuf listened. From beyond the seas a mighty chorus was swelling and stretching out to him in this lonely land—it was—yes, it was the Brothers of his Order singing in their chapel, carrying his Canadian Christmas carol on to its glorious finale!

*O children of the forest free,
O sons of Manitou,
The Holy Child of earth and heaven
Is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant Boy,
Who brings you beauty, peace and joy.*

*Jesus your King is born
Jesus is born,
In excelsis gloria!*

v

'T WAS IN THE MOON OF WINTER -TIME...

A CANADIAN CHRISTMAS
IN THE YEAR 1643

by ANNA TILLENIOUS

Illustrated by EMILE LALIBERTE

The Cumings Make Music

This family devotes the same enthusiasm to music-making that they give to 4-H and other community projects



It's music, music, music in the Cumings home once practices begin for the concerts that are a regular part of the Cumings' musical education.

HOW do you like your music? People react to music in much the same way that they react to porridge: some like it hot, some like it cold. What is your choice? Is it the current favorite on the hit parade? Is it catchy polka rhythm or measured symphony beat? Perhaps you prefer your music somewhere between the two extremes. It may even take in the entire range of musical fare. But whichever and whatever your choice, it's safe to say that the Cumings of Crossfield, Alta., can make it as you want it.

How does a farm family get itself so involved in music? It was quite simple really. The two Cumings boys—David and Larry—had always enjoyed music, an enjoyment they shared with their mother, Violet. Then, one day, an accordion salesman stopped in at the farm. The boys showed such enthusiasm for accordion lessons that she and Tom, her husband, agreed to provide the instruments and the lessons—if the boys would practice without being prodded. This turned out to be the beginning of the boys' musical education. It also encouraged their mother to indulge her interest in the violin.

Where does Tom Cumings fit into his family's musical career? He might tell you that he contributes the money and the means of transporting his family the 30 miles into Calgary for practices and lessons at the Hopkins School of Music. But he does contribute one of the most important qualities of all—his continuing support of their musical ventures.

David and Larry learned to play the accordion both as solo performers and as members of the school's accordion orchestra. Their next move into the world of music carried them into the classics.

David went first. He enjoyed learning how to play the accordion; he still enjoys it. But he wanted something more. It was at that point he

decided to study the French horn. Once he became familiar with this instrument he graduated into the school's symphony orchestra. Now he's learning to play the trumpet.

Larry's musical career closely parallels David's. He, too, started his musical training by learning to play the accordion. But his second choice of instrument was the violin. Now he belongs to the music school's symphony orchestra as well. So does Mrs. Cumings.

The Cumings play in community bands too. For example, the bands at nearby Carstairs and Olds often play for anniversary and other community celebrations and you may find one, two or three of the Cumings playing with these groups.

These activities involve a lot of hard, serious practice, especially before the public concerts and festivals that are an important part of the Cumings' musical education at the school. This includes the theory lessons that are so essential to good musicianship.

Before a concert David, Larry and their mother spend a minimum of an hour each evening at practice sessions. On Sundays these sessions stretch into four and five hours. Right now the three Cumings are working members of the orchestra that will play Beethoven's fifth symphony at a forthcoming concert.

MUSIC may be a major interest in the Cumings family. But they have other interests. For example, three years ago David and Larry went into partnership to breed Samoyed dogs. Because the Samoyed, with its coat of long, dense white fur has become extremely popular in recent years, the boys have a ready market for their puppies.

Mrs. Cumings, on the other hand, likes Siamese cats. Three years ago she and the boys decided to



Once David and Larry Cumings decided on some musical training their mother found herself drawn into classes too. Tom Cumings provides the moral support.

raise these aristocrats of the cat kingdom. This year she entered four in the Calgary cat show, one of them for the boys. She's understandably proud that her Timfy's George has already won fourteen first prizes. Of the cat show she says "it was an interesting experience for both the boys and myself."

While these interests might be called the farm's special crops, the largest part of the farm operation revolves around Tom Cumings' Hereford cattle. The farm itself spreads over some two and a half sections and Tom puts about 450 acres of this into oats and barley for feed for the 200-head herd.

WITH cattle so important in the farm business, it is natural that 4-H beef projects would be just about as important to David and Larry as their music. At 16 David can point to nine years in 4-H, seven of them in beef projects, two in grain. He's held most of the executive positions in his club at one time or another. And he was particularly proud to be named his club's delegate to leadership schools at both Calgary and Olds.

Twelve-year-old Larry also has had an outstanding 4-H record during his two years in the Pee-Wee section. For example, in his first year he was named champion novice showman. Then he went on to become grand champion showman at the Calgary show. This year he won club ribbons—one for the reserve champion calf, the other as reserve champion showman.

Summer brings baseball, of course, and baseball means even more activity in the Cumings household. Why? Well, all three of the Cumings men—Tom, David and Larry—work with local baseball teams. Tom manages the 18-years-and-under ball team; David plays for the Crossfield Junior Baseball team; and Larry plays in the Pony League. Larry's team, the Crossfield Elks All Stars, were this year's district champions. What does Violet Cumings do then? She smiles and says "I go along for the ride."

The elder Cumings are just about as busy as their sons. Tom has been a 4-H leader for a number of years. He has been actively involved with the community hall board for 17 years. Such community services as these, added to the routine of farm chores, give the Cumings a busy life.

The Cumings make music and they make it in variety. They make it well because they have the right combination: teachers they like and respect, an atmosphere that encourages them into new music forms. Most important of all, they themselves are willing to devote time to the continuing kind of practice that makes for first-rate performance. Somehow they prove that sometimes, in a musical cake at least, you can have your cake and eat it too.

by
ELVA FLETCHER
Home Editor

Wear These While You Wait

Choose patterns which offer
styling variety to meet fashion's
dictates and wardrobe needs



2506

No. 2506. For dress wear, try this combination! The easy-fitting dress features a high waist, elasticized through back and tied with a self-belt. Three buttons secure the hip-length jacket. Jacket may be made collarless or with a mandarin collar. Miss sizes 10, 12, 14, 16; 70¢.

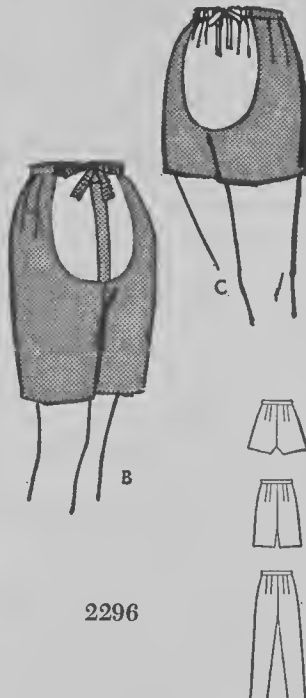
Baby's Carriage Suit



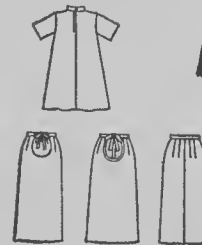
2485

No. 2485. A purchased applique trims a snap-fastened coverall with elasticized back waist and Peter Pan collar. Patterns are included for a cap, a carriage suit with hand and foot covering, and zippered bunting. One size only. 60¢.

2297



2296



2121

No. 2121. A 2-piece dress with set-in short sleeves features mandarin collar, frog trim. Make the kangaroo skirt with or without stretch fabric expansion insert. Alternate versions include a shallow necked top with self-bow trim and a flared 1-piece dress with standing band collar at shallow neck, tab detail above the inverted front pleat. Miss sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20. Pattern price 70¢.

No. 2297. Side-closed maternity topper may also be made with stand-up band collar and set-in short sleeves, or with double-breasted button trim. Top, shorts and skirt patterns included. Miss sizes 10, 12, 14, 16; 60¢.

No. 2296. This pattern for slacks and 2 lengths in summer shorts offers a choice of 3 different expansion stylings: buttons and snaps, a ribbon tie, and a stretch fabric insert. Miss sizes 10, 12, 14, 16; 60¢.

The Country Guide Pattern Department

1760 Ellice Ave.,
Winnipeg 21, Man.

Box 4001, Terminal "A",
Toronto, Ont.

Please send Butterick

(No C.O.D. orders, please)

Pattern No. _____ Size _____ Price _____

Pattern No. _____ Size _____ Price _____

To _____

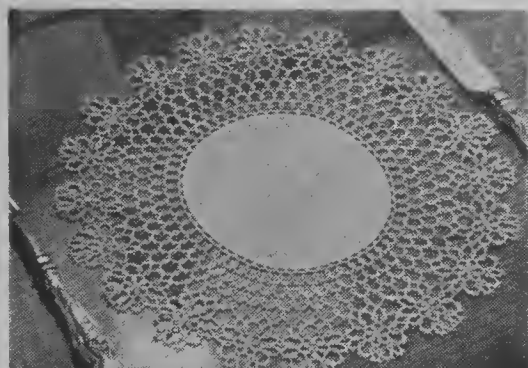
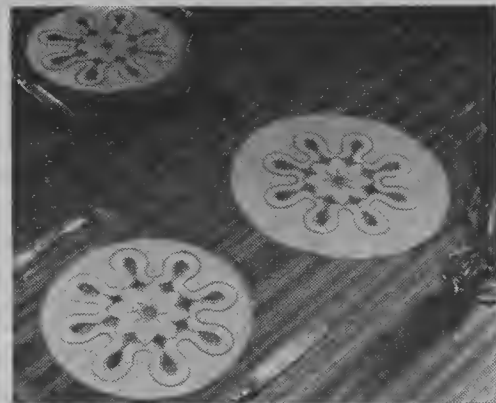
HANDICRAFTS

ACCESSORIES for your table

A leaf design is featured on the centerpiece, place and glass mats for this decorative luncheon set. Order Leaflet No. C-3053; 10¢

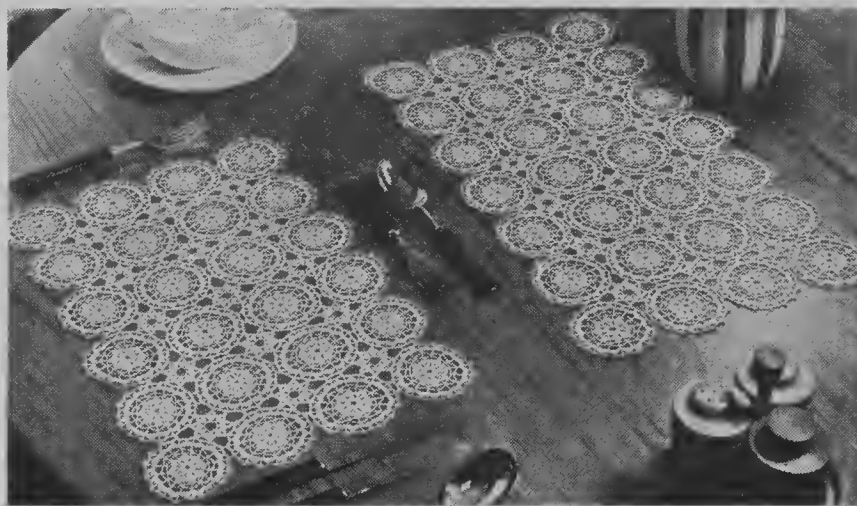


Leaflet No. E-4920, 10¢, offers diagramed instructions for making a set of embroidered cutwork place mats and center mat. A full size drawing for tracing, a detailed diagram showing stitch placing, and diagrams for the double knot stitch are given.



Tatting frosts the linen center of these dainty place mats, which measure 10" in diameter. Order Leaflet No. T-4944; 10¢

For handicraft patterns pictured above please address your order to The Country Guide Needlework Dept., 1760 Ellice Ave., Winnipeg 21, Man.



Motifs measuring 2½" in diameter are joined to form place mats 10" by 15"; centerpiece 10" by 17½". Crochet from directions on Leaflet No. C-6557; 10¢.

IN THE KITCHEN

Turkey Triumphs in Planned-Overs

THE crisply browned roast turkey which wafts such tempting fragrance through the house before the festive meal can star again at the family table. To make the most of the "remains," you will want to store the leftover meat properly, then serve it imaginatively (and soon) or freeze it for later use.

The Poultry Products Institute makes these suggestions to solve the problem of storing a large turkey.

It is easier to take the bird apart before it is refrigerated. Besides, the average refrigerator or other cold storage place is usually crowded and the job of tucking in a turkey carcass is a real problem. The following procedure simplifies storing and makes the left-over turkey easier to use because you end up with the following:

1. **Large pieces of meat:** These are pulled off the carcass whole, not sliced. They may be sliced or used later as desired. For example, reheat in foil with dressing; broil with barbecue sauce until hot and lightly browned; dip in batter or egg and crumbs and deep fat fry; or, coat with mayonnaise and serve on lettuce garnished with chopped toasted almonds.

2. **Smaller chunks:** These may be diced for a la kings, salads, sandwiches or casseroles.

3. **Tidbits and skin:** Use in soup or grind and use in croquettes or sandwiches.

4. **Dressing:** May be reheated in foil with turkey or separately, or served cold with sliced cold turkey,

or added to turkey sandwiches.

5. **Gravy:** May be reheated for hot turkey sandwiches, added to soup or served with reheated turkey and dressing.

6. **Bones.** Break up and store for making broth or make into broth immediately to use in soup, jellied turkey or use as part of liquid in a la king sauce.

Wrap meat and dressing in separate foil, pliofilm or waxed paper packages or place in covered refrigerator dishes. Store in refrigerator

or other cold spot and use up within a few days. For longer storage wrap for freezing, freeze and store. Frozen cooked turkey may be held for several weeks.

Turkey Fantasy

¼ c. butter	½ tsp. nutmeg
¼ c. flour	1½ c. chopped
2 c. milk	cooked turkey
1 tsp. salt	2 T. chopped
¼ lb. processed	pimiento
Swiss cheese,	4 slices toast
grated	

Melt butter in saucepan; gradually

Turkey Apple Pie

¼ c. chopped	2 c. cubed cooked
onion	turkey
2 T. butter	2 c. cubed, cored,
Two 10-oz. cans	unpared apples
of cream of	¼ tsp. nutmeg
chicken soup	Pastry (using 2 c.
½ c. raisins	flour)

Saute onion in butter until tender. Combine onion, undiluted soup and next 4 ingredients. Spoon into 6 individual casseroles, or an 8" sq. or 2 qt. baking dish. (If using single baking dish, decrease pastry to 1 cup flour.) Prepare pastry and roll to ⅛" thickness. Slit to allow steam to escape. Fit over turkey mixture, tucking under dish edge and seal with tines of a fork. Bake in a hot oven at 425°F. about 30 minutes or until golden brown. Yields 6 servings.

Turkey Croquettes

2 c. hot mashed	¼ tsp. pepper
potatoes	2 c. diced cooked
1 egg, beaten	turkey
½ tsp. salt	1 egg, well
⅓ to ¼ tsp. thyme	beaten
or sage	Fine bread crumbs

Combine potatoes, one egg and seasonings. Add turkey and combine well. Spread mixture on a platter and chill. Divide in 12 portions; shape each into a log. Dip each log into well beaten egg, then into bread crumbs. Pan fry slowly in about 3 tablespoons fat, turning several times, until golden brown on all sides (15 to 20 minutes). Yields



Swiss cheese, pimiento and nutmeg accent a cream sauce for a second turkey triumph. It's Turkey Fantasy, served on crisp toast triangles.

12 croquettes. If desired, serve Onion Sauce with the above croquettes.

Onion Sauce

2 T. butter 1/8 tsp. pepper
1/4 c. finely 1 1/2 c. milk
chopped onion 1 1/2 T. chopped
2 T. flour parsley
1/4 tsp. salt

Melt butter in the top of a double boiler. Add onion and saute until transparent. Blend in flour, salt and pepper. Gradually add milk, stirring until blended. Cook over direct heat, stirring constantly until mixture begins to thicken. Then place over hot water and continue cooking for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add parsley just before serving. Yields about 1 1/2 cups sauce.

Turkey Tetrazzini

1 lb. spaghetti 1/2 lb. sharp
1 1/2 c. diced celery cheese
1 c. diced green 2 tsp. salt
pepper 1/4 tsp. pepper
1/4 c. chopped 2 T. Worcester-
onion shire sauce
1/2 lb. mushrooms 1 1/2 c. diced
(canned or cooked turkey
fresh) 3/4 c. grated
3/4 c. butter Parmesan
1/4 c. flour cheese
2 c. milk

Cook spaghetti according to package directions. Prepare vegetables, then cook celery, green pepper, onion and mushrooms in the butter until onion is just transparent. Add flour and blend well. Add milk all at once and cook, stirring constantly until uniformly thickened. Blend in the sharp cheese

cut in pieces or grated, salt, pepper, Worcestershire sauce and turkey pieces. Stir until cheese is melted. Heat to serving temperature. Avoid overheating.

Serve over hot spaghetti with Parmesan cheese sprinkled on top. If desired, layer spaghetti, then sauce and cheese in a 13" by 9" by 2" baking dish and heat 15 to 20 minutes in a moderate oven at 350°F. This recipe, suitable for a buffet supper, yields 5 cups sauce, and about 21 to 24 servings.

Slices in Sauce

1/3 c. lemon juice Few grains cayenne
2/3 c. catsup pepper or dash
1 T. minced of tabasco sauce
onion Dash of garlic
1 tsp. Worcester- powder
shire sauce (optional)
1/2 tsp. monoso- 4 to 6 servings
dium glutamate turkey slices
1/2 tsp. oregano

Mix sauce ingredients thoroughly. Arrange turkey slices on a large sheet of aluminum foil (or in individual servings on smaller sheets). Cover with sauce, then fold foil over to form a steam-proof, leak-proof package. Place on a cookie sheet and heat thoroughly in a moderately hot oven at 375°F. for 20 to 25 minutes. Turkey reheated this way has a freshly cooked flavor, rather than a warmed-over one. V

Key to Abbreviations

tsp.—teaspoon	oz.—ounce
T.—tablespoon	lb.—pound
c.—cup	pt.—pint
pkg.—package	qt.—quart

GARNISH . . . with a light touch

THE best of holiday food tastes better when it appeals first to the eye. A decorative garnish, appropriate in color and texture (and always edible), makes a direct appeal to the beholder's eye.

For the meat platter, the garnish may be as simple as a scattering of delicate parsley sprigs, or you may choose to serve a more filling accompaniment such as the raisin-filled spiced apple halves given below. Chilled vegetables may garnish the meat platter or decorate a salad dish. To mark the meal a special one, you might garnish salads or desserts with sugar-frosted fruit.

Sugar-Frosted Fruit

Grapes. Dip little clusters of grapes in slightly beaten egg white. Drain off excess and shake grapes with sugar in a paper bag. Arrange on a rack to dry.

Cranberries. Lightly beat 1 egg white with 1/2 teaspoon water until just blended. Dip 1 cup cranberries, a few at a time in the egg white mixture. Roll in sugar and let stand until dry.

Raisin-Filled Spiced Apple Halves

1 c. water 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 c. sugar 1/4 tsp. cloves
1/2 c. packed 3 red apples
brown sugar Raisins

Combine water, sugar, brown sugar, cinnamon and cloves in a small saucepan. Heat for 10 minutes. Cut apples in half; remove cores. Arrange apple halves cut side up in a baking dish. Fill the center of each half with raisins, then pour sugar mixture over top. Bake

in a slow oven at 325°F. for 45 minutes to 1 hour, or until apples are soft. Baste 2 or 3 times during baking with sauce from bottom of the dish. Serve immediately as a garnish with roast turkey, baked ham or other meats.

Garnish with Vegetables

Crisp vegetables provide finger foods for nibbling. They may be served with an tangy dip or sauce, as a decorative garnish for meat and salad dishes, or in place of salad.

Celery Fans. Cut stalks in 3" lengths. Slit each lengthwise at narrow intervals to within 1/2" of the base. Drop into ice water and let stand until slit ends spread in a fan effect.

Carrot Curls. Pare washed carrots. Cut thin lengthwise strips with a vegetable peeler; curl strips around finger and secure the curled strip with a toothpick. Drop in ice water to crisp and set the shape.

Green Pepper Rings. Core washed pepper and remove all seeds. Slice crosswise for shapely rings.

Cauliflower-ettes. Wash cauliflower and separate into little flower-ettes. Drop into ice water containing 2 tablespoons lemon juice.

Cucumber Wheels. Wash cucumber well. Draw the tines of a fork sharply down the length of the cucumber, repeating until whole outside is scored. Cut thin crosswise slices. Color may be added to these circles: Core the center from the whole cucumber after scoring the outside skin. Stuff center with softened process cheese, or a milk and grated cheddar cheese mixture. Chill to set, then slice.—G.L. V

CHEESE PAN BREAD

When you bake at home use Fleischmann's Active Dry Yeast for results you can count on! Try this step-by-step recipe for a most delicious novelty batter bread. No kneading required! It is the ideal complement to soups, salads, cold cuts, and really yummy just as bread 'n' spread!

CHEESE PAN BREAD

You'll need:

1/2 c. milk
2 tsps. granulated sugar
1 1/4 tsps. salt
1/2 c. butter or Blue
Bonnet Margarine
1/2 c. lukewarm water
1 tsp. granulated sugar
1 envelope Fleischmann's
Active Dry Yeast
3 well-beaten eggs
2 3/4 c. (about) pre-sifted
all-purpose flour
1/2 c. grated Parmesan and
Romano cheese (it comes,
mixed, in a little shaker
carton)
Few grains pepper
1/4 tsp. dry mustard

1. Scald milk; stir in the 2 tsps. sugar, salt and butter or margarine. Cool to lukewarm.

2. Meantime, measure lukewarm water into a large bowl; stir in the 1 tsp. sugar. Sprinkle with yeast. Let stand 10 mins., then stir well. Stir in lukewarm milk

mixture, eggs and 1 3/4 c. of the flour. Beat until smooth and elastic. Combine cheese, pepper and mustard; stir into batter. Work in sufficient additional flour to make a thick batter—about 1 c. more. Cover with a damp tea towel. Let rise in a warm place, free from draft, until doubled in bulk—about 1 1/4 hours.

3. Stir down batter. Divide between 2 greased 8-inch round layer cake pans and spread evenly. Sprinkle, if desired, with a little more of the cheese. Cover loosely with waxed paper. Let rise until almost doubled in bulk—about 45 mins. Bake in a mod. hot oven (375°) 25 to 30 mins. Serve warm or reheated with butter or Blue Bonnet Margarine. Makes 2 round loaves.

Get this beautifully illustrated, full colour recipe booklet, "When you Bake—with Yeast". Send 25¢ in coin or 10 empty Fleischmann's Yeast envelopes to:

STANDARD BRANDS LIMITED
Consumer Service Dept.,
Section F,
550 Sherbrooke St. W.,
Montreal, Quebec.



From Rags to Riches

by GLORIA WHORTON

ONE look at the dismal array of old woolen garments in my attic led me into wondering how I could get rid of this litter without being wasteful. Surely there was someone in the world who could wear these marine green pants. (But one knee was out!) A man 50 pounds lighter than my husband might need a faded topcoat. (But should I ask him?) The blanket without binding could be cut into crib size. (But I wasn't using cribs any more!)

All were beyond the "give-away" stage; even an agency would frown at my charity. Yet here were pounds of good material for some project . . . rugs, for example. After pricing hand-braided rugs in the department store, my decision was made. I would braid my own.

My only experience in braiding had been the pigtails my daughters wore until they outgrew the style. But I found a book at the library which gave me directions for making several types of rugs and I digested each work thoroughly.

I learned that the most important step in braiding rugs from old clothing is the preparation of the material. Each garment should be ripped apart at the seams, all buttons and trim removed, and the pieces put



The braided rug you make yourself is a thoughtful gift to home and family.

into the washer and washed thoroughly with soap or detergent. This treatment may seem harsh for woolens but remember that a rug must take stiff punishment; the materials must be strong and so worth the investment of your time. If they disintegrate in the washer, better to find out then that they were too old or worn. The material may fade, run, shrink and mat; it makes no difference. Once dried, you will have an assortment of woolen pieces to work on with a minimum of lint and dust.

The next step is to select materials which "balance." To braid, it is necessary to use three strips of material. They may not be the same width. Thickness determines the cutting. If you are to team up a piece of coating with two strips of flannel, the latter will have to be about twice the width of the coating if the three pieces, after folding, are to be even. This is called "balance." Combine colors by holding swatches together until you get the desired effect. Usually a light, a medium (or drab) and a dark color produce an attractive braid. To stress a color, use two shades of one with a neutral.

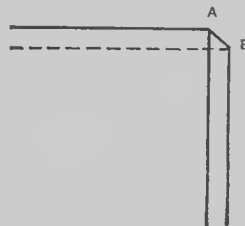
Remember that one single "round" never shows to advantage in the finished rug. It is more effective to plan strips of predominant color by using five or six rounds of a braid. As the work progresses, the colors blend together. To contrast separate bands of color, separate them by one round of solid black, navy, red or green. This is called "banding."

If you plan a rug in a definite color pattern, it is easier to follow your pattern by drawing it out first with colored crayons.

The finished size of an oval rug is determined by the center strip. If you want a difference of three feet in the final rug, make your center strip 36" long; if you prefer a rug more nearly "square," shorten the center strip. A center strip 24" long will make a 4' x 6' rug or an 8' x 10', and so on. A 36" center will result in a 6' x 9' rug, 9' x 12', etc.

I find the sewing machine makes a perfect spot at which to braid. I splice the torn or cut woolen strips on the bias at the machine; the braid can be held securely between splicing with the needle of the machine. And the seat is a comfortable height. If you do not have a sewing machine, you will need to splice by hand. The braid can be clamped to the edge of a table or held in a tightly fitting drawer to allow for the tension which you put on it while braiding.

(For bias splicing, lay one strip across another strip at right angles to each other with the right sides together. Ends will form a straight line. Stitch from A to B as shown in diagram. Fold top strip over seam. Press. Trim overlapping edge so entire length of strip is even.)



The size of a braid is a matter of personal choice. But the too-large braid often loosens with use and takes more material. My strips are about one inch wide for coating, heavy pants and the familiar blanket wools; 1½ inch for light flannels. A word of warning: Fraying is a problem with loose weaves. I tear the strips if the material is not too loosely woven; I cut heavier wools and loose weaves.

To balance the braid, it might be necessary to fold one strip into thirds, others in fourths. Tuck the raw edges in toward the center and pull tightly to make a firm braid. Some use the metal "braid-aids" with success. I prefer my fingers. After a few miles of braiding, it becomes almost automatic to pull, tuck and plait without thinking.

One of the pitfalls I overcame through experience was the tendency to make strips too long. With three strips tangling, I found myself

spending much of my time untangling. I remedied this by using strips no longer than three feet and splicing more often.

To start the center, braid about 10 feet in the color of your choice. Lay the braid on a flat surface, holding two lengths side by side. Beginning at the sharp angle bend, sew or lace the two braids together until you reach the end (24 or 36 inches), as shown in illustration.

Continue lacing or sewing on the wrong side. Always keep the rug flat as you work. When size forces you to leave the table, it may be necessary to work from a kneeling position on the floor. For this reason, many rugs reach table size and are "done."



Another common complication is the humped-up center. This is caused by lacing or sewing too tightly. The braids must be eased around the corners if the rug is to lie flat. Often it might seem that the easing is actually rippling; but this presses out with the addition of another round. Since the rug increases in size each round it is only reasonable to make each strip slightly longer by easing it.

Some braiders "ring" their rugs. This consists of sewing a series of separate strips around the rug and butting each strip. The finished job looks better but this advantage is soon lost if the butts form humps or become loosened through wear. I prefer a rug with one continuous braid, staggering the joins or color changes. After a rug is on the floor it is almost impossible to locate the joins.

While some prefer to sew the braid, I lace my rugs. Using a bodkin and heavy-duty carpet thread, I can lace much faster than it is possible to sew because there is no thick braid to penetrate with a needle. Lacing is just what the word implies. The bodkin (or ski-needle) is thrust through a loop in the braid and then through the loop beside it with very little pressure. And there is no thread to show or rub against the floor.

I made two 9' x 12' rugs in 2 years, working only in my spare time. You may have more time than I, but I find it too tiring to work at a rug for more than a few hours at a time. I do find it pleasant to keep two rugs "going" at once. The color change is restful and there is always a change—from braiding to cutting . . . to lacing . . . to washing more wool . . . to planning colors.

All in all, it is a pleasant, profitable hobby and once you have placed a rug of your own making on the floor, you will appreciate it more each time friends compliment you. And they will.

BABY TEETHING?

Gentle Steedman's quickly help relieve teething troubles—fever, constipation, upset tummy. Promote restful comfort for baby—and you.

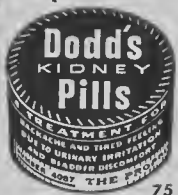
A mild laxative for babies and children.

STEEDMAN'S POWDERS

BACKACHE?

..not me!

For relief from backache or that tired-out feeling I depend on—



Woman Relieved of Agonizing ITCH

"I nearly itched to death for 7½ years. Then I found a new wonder-working creme. Now I'm happy," writes Mrs. P. Ramsay of L. A. Calif.

Here's blessed relief from torture of agonizing itch in women, chafing, hemorrhoids, rash and eczema with an amazing new scientific formula called LANACANE. This fast-acting, stainless medicated creme kills harmful bacteria germs while it soothes raw, irritated and inflamed skin tissue. Stops scratching and so speeds healing. Don't suffer! Get LANACANE at druggists.





Appliance Wise

Tips on Use and Care

Electric Kettle. Use a commercial kettle cleaner regularly to remove hard water deposits which cut down heating efficiency. Reduce scale formation by emptying the kettle after each use. To reset a kettle which has shut off automatically after boiling dry, allow the kettle to cool and add some cold water. Then move reset lever on kettle bottom. Never immerse kettle in water or place on a hot element.

Coffee Pot. When brewing coffee, use the recommended grind and cold water for complete perking cycle and best coffee flavor.

Never immerse the element in water. The inside stem and basket may be washed in warm water and cleaned with a stiff brush. Weekly cleaning prevents deposit of coffee oils which produces a bitter taste. To clean the inside, use a commercial coffee pot cleaner or scrub with a solution of 1 tablespoon automatic dishwashing compound dissolved in 1½ quarts hot water. Percolators, other than aluminum, may be cleaned by percolating a solution of 3 tablespoons baking soda and hot water for about 10 minutes. Only in coffee makers with stainless steel interiors, coffee stains may be removed by letting 2 tablespoons vinegar stand in the cool pot for 2 to 3 minutes. Wipe with a clean cloth and rinse thoroughly.

For filter models, clean filter after each use by rinsing under tap. Wipe with a soft cloth. Avoid piercing the mesh.

Toasters. Never immerse in water. Wipe the outside with a damp cloth. For sticky stains, rub with a cloth dipped in hot soapy water or a mild, non-scratching cleanser. To clean the inside, use a soft, long-handled brush such as a pastry brush. Remove crumbs regularly. Always disconnect toaster before cleaning.

Blender. Pour in part of liquid called for in recipe before adding solid foods. For uniform blending, cut larger foods, such as onions, in several pieces. Stop the blades before stirring down mixture.

To clean, wipe base with a damp cloth. Never immerse it in water. Rinse food particles from container immediately after use. Fill two-thirds full with water, add a little soap and turn blender on. Rinse and remove excess moisture from blades with a towel. Replace container on base, cover, and spin blades dry.

Hot Plate. The surface is easily cleaned with a damp cloth. A mild household abrasive will remove burnt-on food from tubular elements. Wipe up any spilled acid food, such as tomatoes, immediately to prevent discoloring the surface. Use a pastry brush to remove food particles from open coil elements after cooling. Do not spill salt on open elements.

Electric Can Openers. To mount on the wall, allow 6 to 10 inches above the top of the can for ease of use. Most cutting wheels can be removed for washing in hot soapy water. Do not immerse in water. ✓



4-H Roundup

D ECEMBER means Christmas and all the pleasant things of the holiday season. It also brings the year end and suggests a backward look at the year's accomplishments. For Canada's 4-H members it has been a memorable year. Membership has increased; new projects have replaced old ones; and old ones have taken new forms.

On the national scene the number of prize-winning exhibits shown by 4-H members at this year's Royal Agricultural Winter Fair proved that 4-H'ers do learn to do by doing.

For example, there were 225 entries from club members in the field crops section alone. Anne MacAuley, a 4-H Potato Club member from East Baltic, P.E.I., won first prize for her exhibit of 4-H seed potatoes. Then she went on to win the world championship for the best lot of seed potatoes at the fair.

Myron Sacharko, a 4-H member from Bruderheim, Alta., won the world oat championship for his sample of Victory oats and Robert Pike, a 4-H'er from Wolfe Island, Ont., won reserve championship for his barley exhibit.

Ontario 4-H club members excelled in the Queen's Guineas Class for baby beef steers by producing 230 fine entries, divided almost equally among the three leading beef cattle breeds.

There were 139 delegates to this year's National 4-H Club Week and, in the spirit of their 4-H training, many of them plan to further their educational standing. For example, 54 of them plan to enter university in agriculture or home economics faculties after graduation from high school. Another 25 are already at university, the great majority either in agricultural science or home economics courses. Sixteen plan to stay on the farm. Others are training or planning to train as nurses and teachers while some plan to take business courses, or train as technicians or mechanics.

4-H'ers also have something new to work for in the year ahead—the provincial exchange program to be inaugurated in 1963. Under this plan 9 of them from each of Canada's 10 provinces will spend 2 weeks in farm homes in 1 of the other 9 provinces. During their stay they will work with their hosts and share in local, district and provincial 4-H activities.

Ontario

Something new appeared among Renfrew County 4-H'ers. They now

receive a periodic "Renfrew County 4-H Newsletter" put out by their associate agricultural representative, Carm Hamilton. The newsletter keeps them up-to-date on current activities and forthcoming events.

Saskatchewan

While they are comparatively new, Saskatchewan's multiple project or community clubs are growing in numbers and membership. At one time all members of any one 4-H club enrolled for the same project. Under the multiple project program members of such a club may enroll for any number of projects.

The program offers real variety. For example, members may enroll in automotive, electrical, career exploration, field records, spotlight on the world, personal development, feed-lot or market garden projects. Other projects include woodworking, junior hunter safety, entomology, junior leadership, and outdoor cookery.

Nova Scotia

New to Nova Scotia 4-H members was a forestry project developed with the co-operation of the provincial department of lands and forests. Seven 4-H forestry clubs are already learning the importance of forests and farm woodlots and the need for conservation of these resources.

This year, for the first time, 4-H members could choose from five home-making projects: clothing and textiles; food and nutrition; home care; home management; and consumer economics. Early in 1963 members of clothing and textile and home care projects will have new project books.

Perhaps the most significant devel-

opment of all was the organization of a college 4-H club at Nova Scotia Agricultural College by 4-H members who are now students at the College. Members adapted their program from the 4-H junior leadership project.

Quebec

Notable in Quebec activities was the merger of the Young Settlers Club, the Young Breeders Club and the Young Farmers Club into one association which assumed the name "Young Farmers Club." Members of this new group competed for honors at Quebec's provincial exhibition in September and the 14 winners represented the province at National 4-H Club Week.

The Young Farmers Club has two sections: one for boys and girls from 12 to 15 years of age; the other for those 16 years and over.

Alberta

This year Alberta 4-H members elected to executive positions in their clubs and junior leaders are taking advantage of special courses in leadership training. These new courses are designed to help them carry out their executive duties more efficiently and are given in conjunction with similar courses offered to leaders and their assistants.

In southern Alberta 4-H'ers conducted a sweet corn project initiated as a pilot program. The project will probably become a permanent part of the province's 4-H program next year.

Project books for members of 4-H field crop clubs were another innovation. These books will be judged in provincial competition at the Junior Seed Fair in March. New to Alberta's fashion front was the new club uniform which was worn by delegates to this year's National 4-H Club Week. And in 1962, for the first time, boys enrolled in 4-H horticultural projects. ✓



[Herb Nott photo]

This year's National 4-H Club Week had the international look. J. D. Moore, Canadian Council Manager, welcomed Beng Tatt Oh, from Malaya, a student at Ontario Agricultural College. Looking on is Diana Burgis, England. Next is Sharolyn Miller, U.S.A.; Jean Boyle, Newfoundland; Dennis Tournemille, B.C.



Tijah and the birds

by JANET D. SCHINTZ



TIJAH, the squirrel, sat on his favorite tree stump getting his breath back after a wild game of hide-and-seek with his friend Num.

After a while he said to himself, "Well, I'd better set about collecting all the tidbits I've been storing up. Winter will soon be here." He had dozens of bits of mushroom tucked away in secret hiding places in the forks of branches and in knotholes where they could dry and cure.

Back and forth he went, carrying the tidbits to his burrow under the spruce tree. By dusk he had just about finished. He had one more call to make and that was a large old cottonwood tree on the edge of the coulee, near the log house where the three children lived.

"When I've been there, I'll be through for the day," he thought to himself, as away he frisked. He was almost to his destination when he stopped suddenly, sitting up on his hind legs, forepaws held against his chest, dark bright eyes darting suspicious glances at the tree trunk.

"Cha-cha-cha-chirrrrrrrr . . ." he scolded. "What can this be, and on my tree too!"

Cautiously he scrambled closer, ready to dart away if danger threatened. But there were no danger signals he could recognize, or disturbing noises, no strange scents, no queer movements. He edged closer, full of curiosity, quite forgetting his mushrooms.

What was it?

WELL, the children had built a feeding station for the chickadees who came to the house for food on cold snowy days. This feeding station was a tray nailed to the tree with a pointed roof above it to keep off the snow. At this very min-

ute scattered crusts and crumbs and bits of suet lay in the tray.

Gaining confidence, Tijah perched himself on the pointed roof and peeked over the edge.

"Wonder if that stuff is good to eat?" he questioned. Then, after another look around, down he dropped on the tray. He grabbed a crispy crust, and holding it neatly in his forepaws, turned it this way and that, all the time nibbling at it with his sharp little teeth.

"That was good," he remarked to nobody in particular, as he wiped off his whiskers and prepared to try a piece of suet.

"That's better still!" he exclaimed. "What a find!"

Just then, a half dozen chickadees swooped down at him.



"Dee-dee-dee" they scolded, their voices shrill with annoyance. "Get out of there. That's our supper." They made little dashes trying to drive him off, but Tijah held his

ground, and went on enjoying this unexpected feast, scarcely bothering to look at them.

"Just look at that," said one of the children as he pressed his face against the kitchen window. "There's a squirrel, eating the chickadees' supper. Cheeky thing."

They had to laugh at him. He looked so comical, sitting there with his tail curled up behind him, tiny jaws chewing ninety to the dozen. He looked almost like a clockwork toy as he bobbed up and down into the good things on the tray.

"He is funny," they said, "but we can't let him eat the birds' food like that. They haven't a chance to get any food at all."

"Never mind," Mother said. "There are places for feeding the chickadees, right outside this window. Perhaps he won't venture so close, and the birds won't mind. They know us. Let's hang that coconut shell from some sticks. That would keep him guessing!"

But Mother didn't know Tijah. *(Second in a series)*

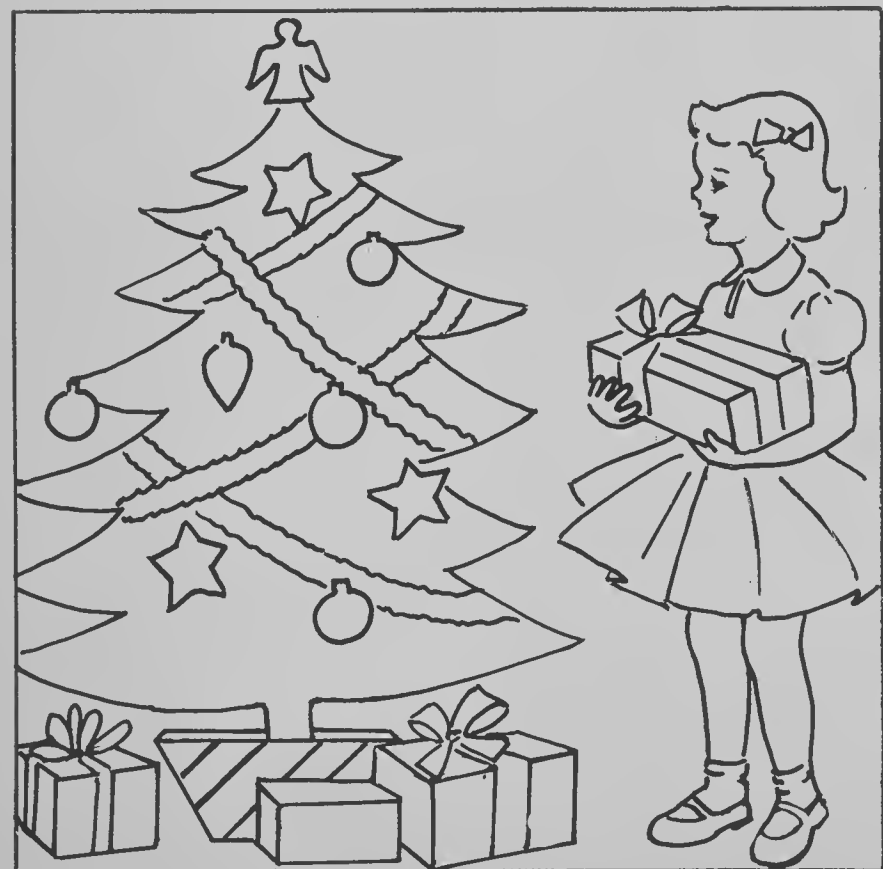
Tag

*Tag's the nicest game to play
On a snowy winter day;
Lots of sliding, lots of fun
Tagging people as they run.
Jimmy turns such somersaults,
Over fences, Bobby vaults,
Tomboy Marge is full of pep,
Tripping us at every step!
Peggy Jane plays hurt for fun,
Shouting "It!" as everyone
Gathers 'round. "Shame, Peg! No fair!"*

*Laughs from everybody there.
Then, when we come home all wet
Mommy makes hot chocolate!*

—NORMA McLAIN STOOP

To Color for Christmas



Toy for a Boy



[Guide photo] What boy wouldn't enjoy a tractor that goes? Jim Davis' dad made this one.

HERE is a toy that would set any boy jumping for joy! It's a tractor that goes. It's home-made too. It belongs to 9-year-old Jim Davis, Niagara Falls, Ont. Jim doesn't jump, though. He just crawls into the driver's seat and drives away, at 4 m.p.h., through his father's 50-acre vineyard.

Jim's father, Pat, made the tractor last winter in the farm shop. It is powered by a 2 h.p., 4-cycle gasoline engine. Other components are a rear-end from an old Crossley car,

and the steering mechanism from a Morris car. The remainder consists of pieces he picked up here and there. He painted the machine a bright red with cream trim, and applied a "McCormick" transfer, which he bought.

Jim spends hours on it. It's safe too. When his foot comes off the accelerator, the tractor stops.

This winter, Pat plans to expand the unit by building a wagon to be hauled behind. Then, Jim can haul friends on vineyard tours.—D.R.B. V

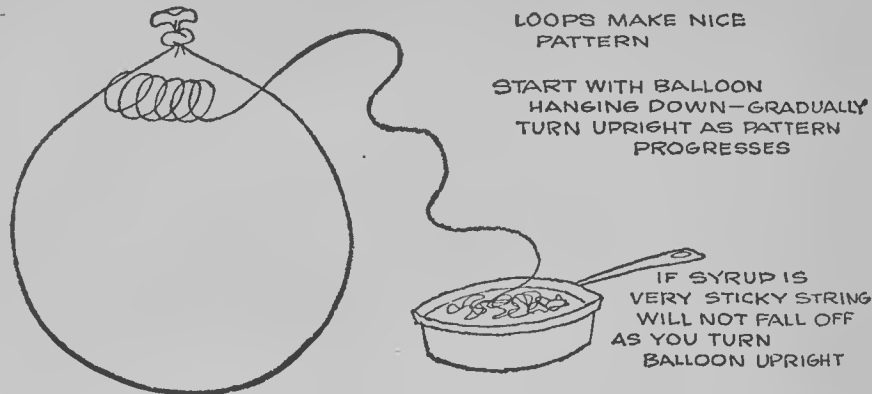
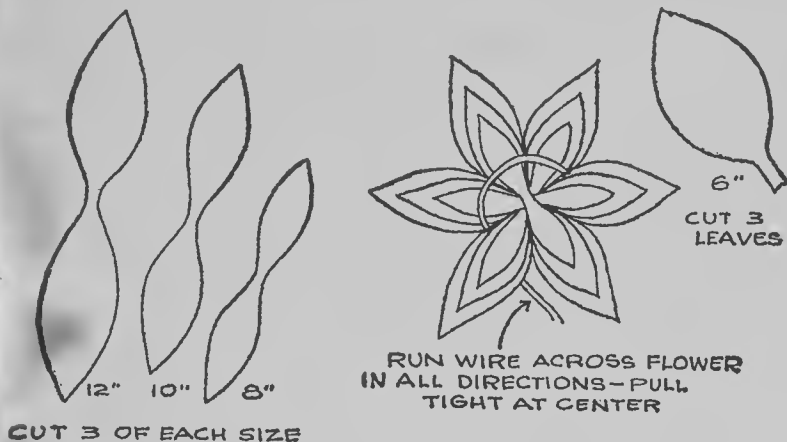
Christmas Decorations You Can Make Yourself

IS this the year you would choose to dramatize your doorway for Christmas? If so, you might like to get the family working on oilcloth poinsettias.

To make a poinsettia, cut three sets of petals from bright red oilcloth in graduated sizes. For doorway decoration use petals 12, 10 and 8 inches long. Arrange petals in sets of three in a circle, as shown in the diagram. Wire in place. Sew a wad of yellow oilcloth into the flower center. Cut leaves from green

oilcloth and fasten them beneath the petals. Glue the leaves separately so they do not bend. You will need three of these large poinsettias for the average doorway. Fasten them vertically on a piece of board or heavy fabric and attach to the door panel, ready to welcome the season's visitors.

The size of these poinsettias can be varied for other purposes. For example, crepe paper poinsettias might be used as gift parcel decorations.



Mistletoe Magic

If your house responds to the magic of mistletoe, make a lacy cover for it. Here's how:

- Soak household string in a thick sugar-water mixture (of the consistency of light starch). Wrap the string around an inflated balloon.
- Lay the string every-which-way around the balloon but leave a 3-inch opening at the top.
- When the soaked string is dry,

break the balloon and drop the mistletoe through the hole. Tie it in place. Top with a bow and hang in an appropriate place.

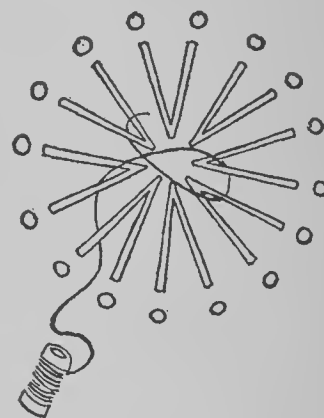
- You can use the same technique for tree ornaments. If you want both large and small ornaments, simply vary the balloon sizes to suit your purpose.

For Wishful Thinking

Want to wish upon a star? Here are two kinds of earthbound stars for children to make for the Christmas tree. The diagrams will guide both you and the youngsters.

1. Wire eight plastic straws together in the middle. You might glue a tiny ornament or gumdrop

Diagram 1



to each of the star's 16 points. Or you might touch them here and there with gold or silver paint. The points could also be decorated with gold or silver glitter.

Diagram 2



2. Cut three stars, one within the other, from a flat piece of foil. The uncut portions act as hinges.

The Countrywoman

Prepaid Scholarship Plan

WE have heard it. We have read it. "By 1980 four out of five young people now growing up in rural Canada will have to find their life occupation in something other than farming," Dr. C. F. Bentley, Dean of the University of Alberta's Faculty of Agriculture, quoted these Alberta statistics in a provocative article in *The Country Guide* as recently as last September. His comments are equally true of other Canadian provinces.

What can parents do to make it easier to send their youngsters to university? How can they put enough money aside to ease the financial drain once youngsters decide to go on to university?

The Ray Flittons, an Alberta farm family, have one answer: the Canadian Scholarship Trust Plan. The Flittons have always recognized the need to give their two youngsters, Linda Gay and Gary, a good education. That's why they agreed to act as counsellors for the Canadian Scholarship Trust Foundation in southern Alberta. Counsellors are also at work in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

The Foundation is a non-profit corporation; its Trust Committee is made up of citizens who are active in education, finance and business. All of them serve without remuneration, their compensation the satisfaction they get from helping Canadian students go to university.

Briefly, the plan operates this way: Parents (or grandparents) enroll a young child (eight years or younger) in the plan. They make deposits into a savings account.

These deposits start at \$9 a month although the amount actually depends on the age of the child. If the child goes to university, the parents use the accumulated money to pay for the first year's tuition. After that, the Foundation takes over. It puts the child through any recognized university in the world.

Once a student has completed first year university and has qualified for the next academic year, he or she automatically becomes eligible for a second year scholarship. The student qualifies for third and fourth year scholarships in the same manner. The Foundation makes scholarship payments directly to the university. The scholarships cover normal academic expenses (tuition, registration, special laboratory or library fees, room and board, books, etc.).

Students who receive scholarships or financial assistance from other sources continue to share in the Plan and receive its benefits.

Are you asking yourself just how the Foundation expects to pay for all these scholarships? Well, the Plan operates on the principle that small sums of money left on deposit at compound interest for a number of years grow into substantial amounts. If a child who is enrolled in the Plan does not go on to university, his parents may withdraw the money they have paid in. They do leave, in the Fund, the interest that has accumulated on their deposits. Not every child enrolled in the Plan will enter university; still, the interest derived from savings made on their behalf remains in

the Fund to benefit those who do.

The Foundation estimates (based on current interest rates and educational statistics) that scholarships of about \$1,500 for each of 3 years will be available.

The mechanics of the Plan are simple: Savings accounts are set up in subscribers' names. Deposits are subject to withdrawal at any time. Subscribers pay a \$100 administration fee. This fee is deducted from the savings account and pays the cost of operating and administering the plan. There is no further cost to the subscriber. The Fund is administered by a reputable trust company with offices across Canada, with the assistance of the Trust Committee.

Parents who are interested in putting interest to work for their children's future can get additional information by writing to the Canadian Scholarship Trust Foundation, 160 Eglinton Ave. E., Toronto, Ont.—E.F.

Invitation

Let a single sunbeam in,
And you welcome all its kin.
Stop to view a single rose,
And greet every one that grows.
Look up at a single star.
There the shining heavens are.
Try one simple song to bring,
And the winds will start to sing.
Spend one smile where smiles are few,
And the world will smile for you.
Add one friendship to your store,
And each day will bring you more.

—CLARENCE EDWIN FLYNN

NEED REST?

Disturbed rest may result from bladder and urinary irritations. GIN PILLS gently stimulate your system to relieve, broken rest, sore back, a tired rundown feeling. Sizes 40s and 80s.

GIN PILLS FOR THE KIDNEYS

Lemon Juice Recipe Relieves Arthritic & Rheumatic Pain

If you suffer rheumatic, arthritis or neuritis pain, try this simple inexpensive recipe that thousands are using. Get a can of RU-EX Compound, a 2 weeks supply, today. Mix it with a quart of water, add the juice of 5 lemons. It's easy! No trouble at all and pleasant. Take only 3 tablespoonfuls 2 times a day. Often within 48 hours—sometimes overnight—relief is obtained. If the pains do not quickly leave and if you do not feel better, return the empty can and RU-EX will cost you nothing. You are the sole judge as RU-EX is sold by your druggist on a money back guarantee. Over 7 million cans used.

Check **WORKSHOP** columns page 24 for ideas that may save time or money.

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(Continued from page 12)

YOUR STAKE IN FARM POLICY

policy that should be embodied in legislation to give it permanent form. The Federation went on to request that provision also be made in such legislation for providing freight assistance on Ontario wheat and corn when moved to provinces east of Ontario.

In commenting on the policy, the Hon. Alvin Hamilton said that while feed freight assistance should be made statutory, it is not now working out as it should. Before it is embodied in permanent legislation, changes must be made in the existing program.

CROP INSURANCE AIRED

Both farm organizations and the delegation from Manitoba put proposals before the Conference on the crop insurance program.

The National Farmers Union stated that it was happy to see crop insurance introduced in some provinces and would like to see this kind of insurance made generally available to Canadian farmers. However, under the present system, the NFU pointed out that "too great a burden is put on provincial resources, especially in the first years or in years of crop failure such as 1961. We, therefore, propose that the Federal Government offer to provincial governments assistance in the form of reinsurance by which it would assume part of any losses going beyond reserves accumulated by a provincial crop insurance board."

This view was strongly supported in a well documented case placed on the record by the Manitoba representatives. Manitoba has thus far had the greatest experience with the crop insurance program, and is convinced it is the best way available to help stabilize incomes of farmers who are subject to the vagaries of Mother Nature. By implication, the Manitoba brief made it clear that if the Federal Government didn't agree to the reinsurance proposal, it was likely that the further development of the crop insurance program in Manitoba would be seriously affected, if not nullified.

The CFA presentation took a different approach to improving the crop insurance program. The Federation expressed the view that, to be successful, the Federal and provincial contributions to the premiums for crop insurance must be increased. This organization also put forward the thought that there are areas in Canada where the risks of crop failure are so extreme that the PFAA type of program is the only one that can be satisfactory.

Discussion revealed that P.E.I. and Saskatchewan, as well as Manitoba, have crop insurance programs in various stages of development. Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and British Columbia were showing active interest in getting a program underway. Ontario had surveyed the situation carefully, but found very little interest in crop insurance within the farming communities. It was unlikely the subject would be

revived in this Central Province in the foreseeable future.

There were no commitments as to whether the reinsurance proposal would be implemented, but at least the need for it was well established. If the Federal Government wants the crop insurance program to be a meaningful one, it appears it will have to accept reinsurance as part of the undertaking.

OTHER MAJOR TOPICS

ARDA, railway branch line abandonment, protection for family farm enterprises, and the establishment of a National Agricultural Development Board were other major topics that were brought forward for consideration.

ARDA. The Conference heard a progress report on the implementation of the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act from the director, A. T. Davidson. It was told that most of the past year had been taken up with negotiations on a general agreement between the Federal Government and each of the provincial governments.

This master agreement which runs until March 31, 1965, has now been approved by the Federal Cabinet and the 10 provinces. It sets down a scheme of action which will allow for a very wide range of projects and programs to be approved. It is drawn so that no basically worthwhile program of rural development should be excluded. It sets down a financial commitment by the Federal Government, a basis for its distribution among the provinces, and the Federal cost shares on programs that provide a basis for the joint planning of budgets and programs. It places considerable emphasis on research because "we want to avoid expedient or ad hoc measures that provide no real solution," Mr. Davidson pointed out.

"We hope," he said, "under the authority of this . . . agreement, to devise programs that will fundamentally improve the economic and social structure of our rural areas."

Mr. Davidson went on to say that ARDA has now arrived at the point where the tools have been supplied to get on with the job. He predicted

that by next spring, the administrative structure should be filled out and the program should be actively working right out in rural areas.

Railway Branch Line Abandonment. Both the national farm organizations took the opportunity provided by the Conference to repeat their commonly held stand on railway branch line abandonment.

They want branch line abandonment procedures by the Board of Transport Commissioners to be halted until a national plan and policy for abandonment has been developed. They argue that piecemeal abandonment of rail lines cannot be a sound policy. A decision to abandon any particular piece of line cannot usually be soundly made unless there is a clear idea of where that line does or does not fit into the eventual pattern of railway line facilities. Unless there is an advance plan, related to a reasonable timetable, it is not possible for grain companies, rural municipalities or other investors to rationally plan their repair and construction programs.

The farm organizations insist on the need for advance planning in order to protect farmers and the public against the consequences of piecemeal abandonment.

Protection for Family Farm Enterprises Sought. The main burden of the National Farmers Union presentation was given over to promoting policies which would assure that farming remains in the hands of farm families in the form of holdings to be operated for the benefit of those families and the nation as a whole.

The NFU proposed that the Federal and provincial governments direct their immediate attention to the enactment of policies which will give farmers security and the opportunity of making a livelihood on family-sized units.

Specifically, the NFU called for the consideration of these measures:

- Supplementary payments by the Federal Treasury on specified basic units of production and/or numbers of acres under production;
- Special credit facilities for farmers on family-sized holdings; and,
- Land agencies, endowed with sufficient funds, authorized to buy



"I'm the only person I know whose slippers wear out faster than his shoes."

farms up for sale and resell them to young farmers who want to start farming, and to establish farmers who need to increase their land holdings to make them economic units.

"Such measures," the NFU felt, are part of the subsidiary function and the competence of the State. They would go a long way to protect farmers from being absorbed by the integrating practices of large corporations.

A National Agricultural Development Board. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture included in its conference presentation a basically and far-reaching idea. It has for study the suggestion that co-ordination and integration of farm policy in Canada might be achieved by establishing a National Agricultural Development Board.

Such a Board could become a body advisory to the government through the Minister of Agriculture, but perhaps even more important, it could be charged with the responsibility of developing much more comprehensive, integrated and long-term concepts of what our agricultural policy in Canada should be.

The Federation invited those represented at the Conference to consider the proposal. "It is a question that deserves much careful thought," CFA President Hannam told the meeting. "At this time we can only say with confidence that real need exists for moving forward more effectively in the development of national agricultural policy. Whether a Development Board would meet the need, and precisely how it should be constituted and operated, remains to be examined." ✓



Armand Lacasse

"It would further weaken the Canadian Wheat Board whose powers have already been restricted by the removal of western feed grain from its control," Mr. Gleave added.

As for Mr. Hamilton's suggestion that western farmers consider setting up a fund to help meet possible losses incurred in credit sales of grain, Mr. Gleave stated that this was not acceptable. Canadian export sales of wheat were a matter of importance to the country as a whole, not just to farmers.

"Farmers are now subsidizing flour mills for the export of flour," Mr. Gleave pointed out. "They should not be expected to take on a greater burden."

Commenting on farmer participation in supplying credit for grain

(Please turn to next page)

What Farm Organizations Are Doing

EASTERN CONFERENCE POSITIONS MINISTER

The Eastern Agricultural Conference, the eastern section of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, has made strong representations to the Federal Minister of Agriculture to continue the feed freight assistance policies and to extend them to include Ontario corn and wheat.

The submission identified the inadequate movement of stocks of feed grains into Eastern Canada before the close of navigation, with resulting price increases to farmers in winter months, as the major grain storage and supply problem. It reaffirmed CFA requests for storage charge assistance policies in oats and barley at the Lakehead, and on western feed grain stocks remaining unsold in Eastern Canada in the spring at the opening of navigation. Such assistance, it is believed, would reduce risks of loss from holding unsold stocks in the East, and improve the supplies of feed grains at the Lakehead—all of which would improve supplies in Eastern Canada and prevent undue price increases in the winter months.

The Eastern Conference also pointed out that policies of providing storage assistance for feed grains are not a substitute for feed freight assistance.

Other recommendations made by the Conference to the Minister were:

- Increased efforts on a wide front, through ARDA, farm credit policies and special programs to stimulate eastern beef production.
- Reinstatement, at the earliest possible date, of the full quality premium on hogs and the full program of lime assistance—both reduced under the austerity program.
- Stricter control of garbage feeding of hogs, and eventual elimination of this practice, to prevent further outbreaks of hog cholera.
- Implementation of a special program of assistance to meet disastrous hay and crop losses in the Maritimes where weather conditions have been worse than any in the experience of local farmers.

- A change in the lamb price support program to provide deficiency payments on a quarterly rather than an annual basis.

- Reduction in freight rates on live cattle between Western and Eastern Canada. ✓

LACASSE NEW CFA ECONOMIST

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture has appointed Dr. Armand L. Lacasse to the position of economist. In making the announcement, CFA president, H. H. Hannam said that Dr. Lacasse's training and background suit him exceptionally well for the position.

Armand Lacasse was born in Notre Dame du Nord, Quebec, in

1928, where his father was a co-operative store manager. He is a graduate of Macdonald College and the Quebec Dairy School at St. Hyacinthe, and obtained his Masters and Doctorate degrees from Cornell University, where he majored in marketing and business management, with specialization in agricultural economics and statistics. He has been employed since 1960 as an economist with the Quebec Department of Agriculture. ✓

FARM UNION LEADERS REACT TO MINISTER'S SUGGESTIONS

Saskatchewan Farmers' Union president, A. P. Gleave, believes that Agriculture Minister Hamilton's suggestion that the wheat pools and U.G.G. set up a selling agency, first for the domestic market and later for export sales, goes counter to the basic idea of orderly marketing of western grains through one central marketing agency.

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DID SOMEBODY SAY "sifto SALT" ?

(Continued from preceding page)

sales, Ed Nelson, president of the Farmers' Union of Alberta said that in effect the proposal means that Canadian wheat growers would receive little or no help from the Federal Government. It means they must compete against the treasuries of such countries as the United States and France, where growers are guaranteed a price for their grain with any losses covered by their governments.

If the people in non-farm communities want farmers to provide their own credit for grain sales, then they should be prepared to give farmers the right to buy wherever they can get cheaper goods, whether it be China, Japan or elsewhere, Mr. Nelson concluded.

FUA WANTS HYDRO PUBLICLY OWNED

The Farmers Union of Alberta has announced that it fully supports the stand taken by David Hunter, leader of the Provincial Liberal Party, in his declared intention to take over ownership of hydro power in Alberta if elected to office.

The FUA statement points out that the hydro issue is becoming increasingly important to Albertans since Alberta may soon be the only province to contribute to the Federal Treasury by way of taxation on these utilities.

"We have always contended that the so-called debt that would accrue in any takeover is not as serious as the government implies. The people of Alberta must pay all these costs in any case," the statement continued.

Most European countries, and almost all of Canada's provinces recognize, the FUA stated, that over-all planning provides more effective production and distribution of power, and have accordingly taken over the resource. Mr. Hunter's proposal is an attempt to bring Alberta up-to-date.

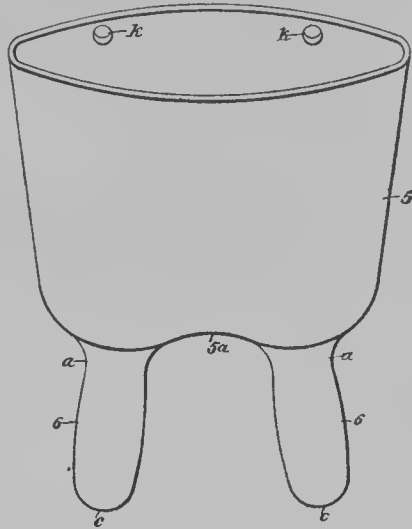
Odd and Interesting

Milk Practice without the Cow

by M. J. RIVISE

(Based on the files of the U.S. Patent Office)

AN Iowa dairy farmer, back near the start of this century, was concerned about the harm that might be done while a newcomer was learning to milk a cow. He claimed: "The expert extraction of milk from the udder requires con-



siderable practice and, as the efforts of one who is not experienced irritates the animal, the work of learning is slow; the cow may resist the efforts of the learner."

So, he rigged up an artificial udder complete with teats, filled it with water, and it was ready to be milked, or rather "watered." His intention was to hang up an artificial udder in every dairy barn in the world.

The patent examiner must have decided to test this "learning device" for himself. He took it home and studied the inventor's directions, and evidently had some success. The dairy farmer was agreeably surprised

to receive his official patent within 3 months of applying.

He got the patent but he never got his artificial udder back. He couldn't afford to travel to Washington, D.C., to look for it, so he decided to forget the whole thing. Maybe everyone had had enough, including the cows.

Gate that Spanked Animals

by M. J. RIVISE

(Based on the files of the U.S. Patent Office)

BY nature, tillers of the soil are thrifty. They don't like to see anything wasted — and time least of all. That was why a farmer named J. M. Files got tired of chasing animals out of pastures or fields where they didn't belong. Neither could he spare his children's time, because he wanted them for more important chores.

After giving it much thought, he came up with an idea, and the Patent Office liked it and granted him a patent.

Part of his application, made in 1900, read as follows: "This inven-

tion relates to a certain new and useful improvement in gates for separating one pasture from another the object being to provide a gate-way or opening to permit, when properly adjusted, livestock of one



kind or size to pass through the gate and close the same to stock of different kind or size.

"Should an animal, other than the type or size to pass through the gate, attempt it, a blade would strike the animal, and each successive attempt would be met with a blow."

This was a kind of "spanking machine" for badly behaved animals. For example, a hog would get licking if it tried to get into the cow pasture. It must have been quite a sight.



Hi FOLKS:

Ted Corbett was having a nice, cold glass of milk when I called at his place the other day.

"Here," he said, pushing the jug at me, "have some of the White Seource."

"White, what?" I drew back as if I expected the jug to bite me.

"SCOURGE," he repeated. "The dictionary says scourge is 'a cause of affliction and calamity.'"

"You mean the dairy has finally decided to turn down your milk?" I asked hopefully, figuring maybe I could get my quota raised.

"I'm not speaking of MY milk," he said testily, "I'm speaking of everybody's milk. That old saw about milk being the perfect food has now been tossed out the window. Today, the medecos act like it's a pesky killer. Soon every bottle will have to have a skull and crossbones on it."

"Last June I contributed to the set-aside so we could tell people it still IS the perfect food," I protested.

"Sure you did," he agreed. "And so did I. But from what I read in the papers every day we're wasting our money. For instance, if somebody lets go an atomic blast, where does the fallout land?"

"Everywhere," I told him.

He shook his head sadly. "Don't you ever read the papers? No sir, it lands in the milk. And when the whole countryside is sprayed with DDT, the milk and butter grab onto it so they can pass it right onto the consumer. Margarine now, it's

too fussy. It won't even look at DDT or fallout."

"Seems to me I read somewhere that meat, poultry and fish can pick up and store DDT."

"You must've read that in PRAVDA," Ted grunted. "In this country they use dairy products for the fall guy. Why do you think Ed Tatum had that heart attack last month?"

"Because he sits on his fanny too much," I said. "Ed's idea of a long hike is to walk from the car to his house. When they made him manager of the Co-op he even arranged so he could park his car inside the main shed, about 12 feet from his office chair."

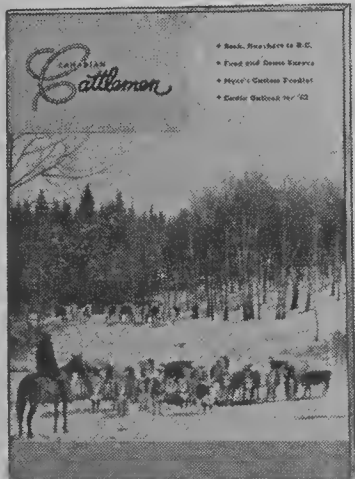
"Course, you're entitled to your opinion," Ted conceded, "but the Doc figured different. He told Ed he'd have to quit eating butter and drinking whole milk. Even suggested milk might give him gall stones. He didn't warn him against whiskey and cigars, mind you. No sir, just milk and butter—things our folks used to tell us we couldn't get enough of."

"Nobody's ever been able to prove that anyone has died from drinking milk!" I snorted.

"They don't have to," said Ted. "If they keep on the way they're going the whole industry will die, then people will have to blame their ills on something else."

I waited for him to drain his glass. He didn't fall into a coma or anything, so I decided I'd risk taking a drink of the stuff myself.

Sincerely,
PETE WILLIAMS



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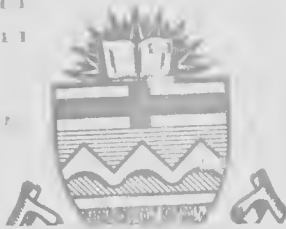
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